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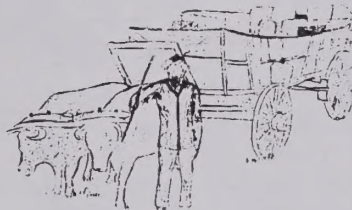
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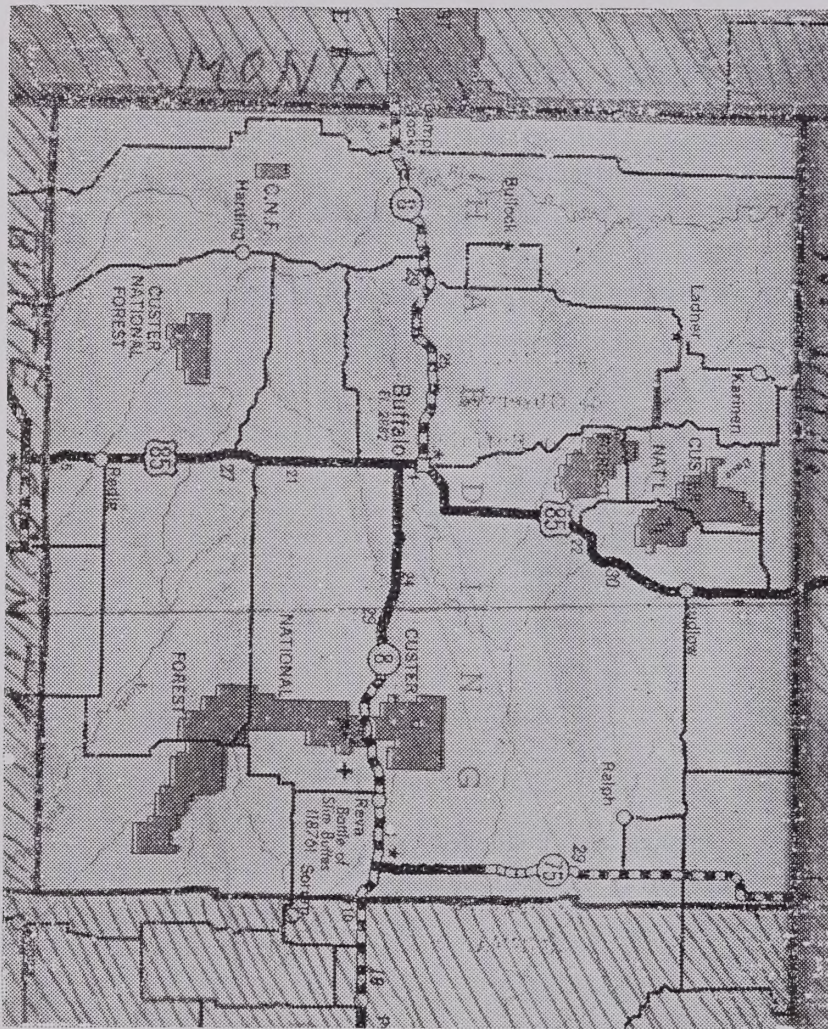
A Historical Booklet on
HARDING COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
Prepared Especially for the
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HARDING COUNTY
To Be Observed on September 6-7, 1959
at Buffalo, South Dakota



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FOREWORD

This booklet has been authored by many people. Although compiled and published in the plant of the Buffalo Times-Herald, the booklet draws heavily on the writings and experiences of many present and former Harding county folks. We have taken advantage of the work of Myrle G. Hanson, who compiled a "History of Harding County, to 1925," for background material, and likewise have used material from several local community and family histories. This booklet cannot in any sense be considered a complete history of Harding county, since time and space limitations have made it necessary to condense much material, and lack of authoritative data on some events and areas have made it necessary to abandon some worthwhile leads. However, it is the intention of the publishers to present this booklet as a historical volume of stories, both strictly factual and entertaining, covering as much of the history of Harding county as can be accumulated within the time allowed. We wish to offer thanks to the many people without whose help such an undertaking would have been impossible.

Although Harding county is observing its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1959, its history goes back much further, and through this booklet it will be attempted to present a resume of those years along with the fifty years since Harding county was officially established.

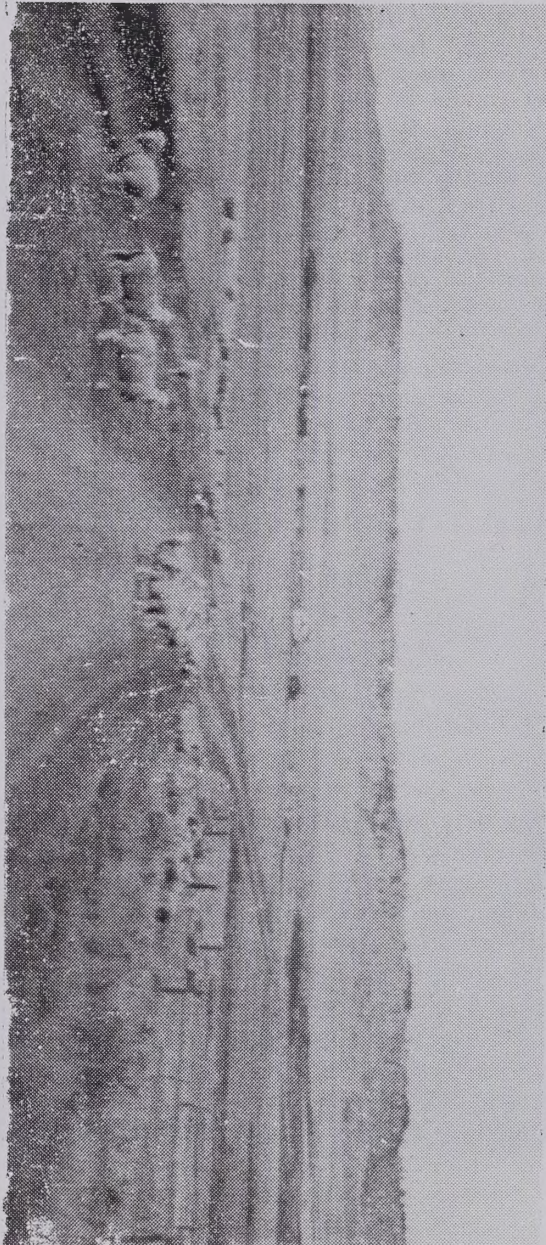
The Publishers

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the many hardy souls, from the earliest fur trappers and buffalo hunters, through the early day cattlemen and cowboys, and the homesteaders and others down to the present time, who have given of their time and talents to make Harding county what it is today. It is well said that when God had nearly completed His task of creating the world, He paused, looked for an ideal location near the center of the great land of America. Having found the location, he took some of the most beautiful rugged hill material, some of the most beautiful valley material, some of the richest and some of the poorest of soils, some of the purest water and finest grass, mixed with wild flowers and prairie plants, and built a corner to be named Harding county. He then cast about for the most courageous and neighborly people and instilled in their hearts the spirit of adventure, that they might people this chosen spot. On this note we will begin the story of Harding county.

184460

TYPICAL HARDING COUNTY SCENE



A typical prairie scene in Harding county, showing sheep grazing on the rolling prairie with the rugged Cave Hills in the background.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HARDING COUNTY

Harding county is located in the extreme northwestern part of the state of South Dakota. It is bounded on the north by the state of North Dakota and on the west by Montana. On the east it is bounded by Perkins county and on the south by Butte county. The present boundaries of Harding county were not established until 1908. An act creating Harding county and defining the boundaries of the same was passed by the territorial legislature of Dakota in 1881. Harding county was named for J. A. Harding, speaker of the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of Dakota Territory in 1881. This county as then constituted did not have the same boundaries as the present Harding county but contained much of the same region. The boundaries were changed in 1883 to resemble more closely the present boundaries of Harding county. The northern part of the present Harding county was called Ewing county, the central part was called Burdick county and the southern part, Harding county. In the general election of 1898, it was decided to change the boundaries of Butte county so as to include all territory to the North Dakota line. Consequently, Harding county was attached to Butte county. In 1908 by a vote of the people, Harding county was separated from Butte county, becoming again Harding county with its present boundaries.

Harding county has an area of 2,682 square miles. It is almost square, being approximately fifty-four by fifty-one miles. The greater part of the county is prairie but there are also a few mountain ranges and buttes. The most important are the North and South Cave Hills in the north, the East and West Short Pine Hills in the southwest, and the Slim Buttes in the eastern part of the county. These hills are timbered with ponderosa pine and cedar and contain many springs of cold water. Canyons are timbered with deciduous trees such as ash, cottonwood, and wild fruits. Several scenic badlands areas are also present, the principal such area being known as the Jump-off, extending for many miles across the west central part of the county. The prairie in Harding county, rather than being flat and monotonous, is pleasantly rolling and rugged, with many draws, dry creek beds and cut banks.

Wild game abounds in the area, including deer, antelope, sage grouse, and in certain areas, pheasants and wild turkeys. Ducks are also present on the many dams and stock water ponds in the area.

Although there are no natural lakes in Harding county, development of dams since the drouth of the 1930's has resulted in some sizeable artificial lakes and reservoirs which have been stocked with fish by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The largest of these is Gardner Lake west of Buffalo, developed by the state and named for W. R. Gardner, who served many terms as State Senator and State Representative from Harding county. Gardner was an enthusiastic sportsman and was instrumental in development of the lake, which provides fishing, boating and other recreation.

Three rivers are located in the county, the Little Missouri, the Grand River, and the Moreau. The Little Missouri has its source in Wyoming. It cuts through western Harding county and flows north, joining the Missouri River in North Dakota. The South Fork

of Grand River has its source in the Jumpoff southwest of Buffalo, flows eastward through the central part of the county and empties into the Missouri River. The North Grand River cuts through the extreme northeast corner of Harding county. The Moreau flows eastward through the southern part of Harding county. These rivers are fed by many springs.

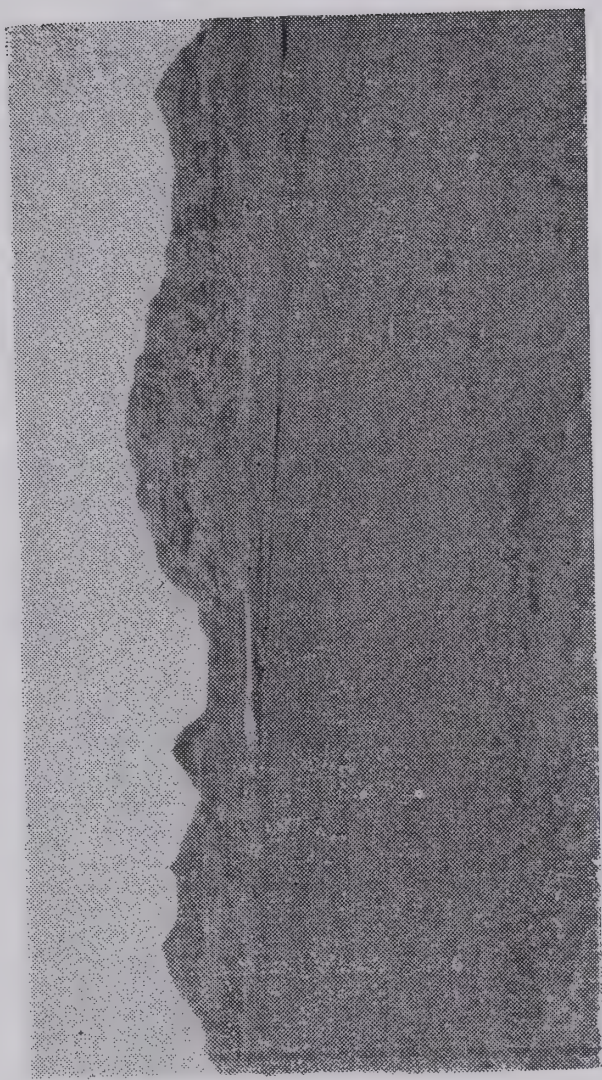
The climate is dry, with an approximate annual precipitation of thirteen inches. During the summer the weather is often very hot, with temperatures often higher than 100 degrees during the daytime. Nights are usually cool even in the hottest weather. Winters are often severely cold for short periods of time, although cold spells usually do not last for more than a week at a time. During these cold periods temperatures of 30 to 40 below zero are not uncommon, with a temperature of -54 recorded at Camp Crook. "Open" winters are quite common, with only a light fall of snow. This is of great advantage to stockmen, since livestock may graze throughout most of the year, with a minimum of supplementary feeding.

The prairies are covered with buffalo grass, and this, together with the protection afforded by the hills, buttes, and deep draws, makes this county an ideal livestock country. The so-called buffalo grass is short, thick and very nutritious. In winter, unlike other grasses which fall to the ground, it stands up as straight as in summer. Stock can graze even though there is some snow. This grass also cures during the fall in the same manner as hay and retains its nourishment during the winter. Soil is relatively fertile and yields well when it receives sufficient moisture. Eastern and northeastern Harding county areas are farmed quite extensively, with good grain crops during "good" years, while the balance of the county is utilized mainly as livestock grazing land, with creek bottoms and level plains furnishing wild hay. During the past two decades construction of stock water dams and other conservation practices have resulted in better range utilization and irrigated tame hay has reached a substantial level of production.

Feeder cattle produced in Harding county are in good demand in the corn belt states due to high rate of gain and economy of feeding.



Winter scene during one of Harding county's recent "hard winters"



THE CROW BUTTES

These rugged mud buttes, located at the extreme south end of central Harding county, were the scene of an incident in Harding county's earliest recorded history, when the Sioux Indians defeated the Crow tribe, resulting in the Sioux nation gaining control of this area in about 1822.

EARLIEST HISTORY OF HARDING COUNTY

Since the history of Harding county figured quite prominently in earliest history of the entire region, a historical resume of the earliest recorded history of the area might be well. For this purpose historical research of State Historian Will G. Robinson is used, as is Myrle G. Hanson's History of Harding County.

Harding county was first inhabited by the Sioux and Crow Indians, who were continually fighting for the possession of the land. At the battle of Crow Buttes, in the south central part of Harding county, the Sioux Indians almost destroyed the Crow tribe. This battle was fought about 1822. The Indians did not make permanent homes in this county but there are still remains of Indian villages to be found in the area. Some of these sites were made when Indians came here on hunting expeditions.

Probably the first white men to traverse this area were Wilson Price Hunt and his Astorians, bound for the Pacific from the Aricara Villages at the mouth of Grand River in August, 1811. Transient traders and trappers were here thereafter but left no record until July 1874, when General George A. Custer led an expedition to the Black Hills from Fort Abraham Lincoln, at Bismarck, N. Dak. This expedition consisted of ten companies of the Seventh Cavalry, one each of the Seventh and Seventeenth Infantry, and a detachment of nearly 100 scouts, together with necessary guides, interpreters and teamsters, totaling about 1,000 men. The expedition went up the Grand River and then southwest to explore a cave of which guides were telling wonderful tales. They camped at the cave the night of July 11, 1874. This cave is located on the east side of the Cave Hills, four or five miles southwest of the present village of Ludlow.

This cave was named Ludlow Cave in honor of Captain Ludlow. Crude Indian drawings were found on the walls and well preserved Indian implements were found deeply buried in the cave debris. Two well defined floors were found, one clearly used by the Sioux Indians, while the lower floor was of a more ancient culture.

The Custer expedition traveled southwesterly across Harding county and camped in "Prospect Valley" not far from the present site of Harding near the Short Pine Hills. Then they went south to the Black Hills.

BATTLE OF THE SLIM BUTTES

After the battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876, General Terry and General Crook joined forces for the purpose of trying to locate and crush the Indian forces. They separated when they reached the mouth of Powder River and General Crook moved eastward toward the Little Missouri River where he expected to find the Indians. General Crook crossed the Little Missouri in western North Dakota. Then as all Indian trails seemed to lead south toward the Black Hills, he decided to go south, although the command was practically out of provisions. With scarcely three days rations and without canvas sneiter of any kind, the command numbering 1,260 men, started toward the Black Hills two hundred miles south. The prairie had been burned off and consequently there was little feed for the horses. The weather was unfavorable as it had been raining for several days. In spite of the weather and poor condition of the horses, about 25 to 35 miles a day were made. It was quite a hardship on the two hundred men in the infantry. On September 7, 1876, the command reached the Grand River and it was here that General Crook decided to send forward 150 picked men under the command of Captain Anson Mills of the Third Cavalry on a dash to the Black Hills settlement to bring back provisions. This detachment pulled away from the main body under cover of darkness and traveled nearly all night. They halted for a few hours and were up and gone again at daybreak without breakfast, riding until noon when a brief stop was made. Coffee was made to refresh the men, and the horses were allowed to graze.

About 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon Frank Girard, the chief scout, hastened back from his advanced position to announce the discovery of Indians. Captain Mills had been ordered to attack any body of Indians provided he was satisfied he could defeat them. The command hid in a ravine and planned to attack the Indians the next morning at two o'clock. The night was dark, cold, rainy and very unpleasant.

Early the next morning the command moved to within one mile of the Indian village, which was located on both banks of a small stream called Rabbit Creek. Here the pack train was left with twenty-five men to hold it. The rest of the command, under Lieut. Bubb, drew nearer to the village, intending to charge, but as they came to within 100 yards of the lower end, a small herd of ponies suddenly stampeded and ran through the village. Then the soldiers charged, firing as they went. The Indians cut their way out of the back of some of their rawhide lodges, and after firing two volleys into the soldiers, took to the brush and ravines, carrying their dead and wounded with them. Two men of Company E were wounded, Lieutenant Von Ludwick, in the knee cap, and Private Curen, in the thigh.

As soon as the Indians had taken care of their women and children and their wounded, they returned and surrounded the soldiers. From that moment on there was constant firing and many Indians were killed and wounded. Captain Crawford ordered J. A. Kirkwood to take five men and go into all the lodges to see whether there were any Indians left in them. Meanwhile, in a ravine near



Artist's conception of the Battle of the Slim Buttes

by, Indians were firing at the troops on the skirmish line, and some of the soldiers went to the west side to attempt to drive them out. One of the men from Company E, John Wenzel, was shot through the forehead and killed instantly, as he rose to see the position of the Indians. Kirkwood and another soldier by the name of Clevensky then attempted to dislodge the Indians from the west side but failed. Kirkwood was shot in the side, but only a flesh wound resulted. Sergeant Glass had his arm shattered. Captain Mills sent three couriers back to General Crook with a message to come, as he had captured an Indian village. General Crook arrived about 11:30 a. m. the next day. Then Scout White said that he would get the Indians out, but was killed in the same way that Wenzel was. That evening Crazy Horse and his band came on to take the 150 soldiers, but finding the entire force there, he withdrew after a little skirmishing. Five men were wounded. Kennedy was wounded so bad that amputation was necessary and he died while being operated on.

The Indian Chief, American Horse, was mortally wounded, but the entire Indian loss was not known as their dead were carried away. The loss of Captain Mills' command amounted to three dead and fourteen wounded. There was captured a vast amount of provisions including over 5,500 pounds of dried meat, large amounts of dried fruits, robes, ammunition, arms, and 175 ponies. All of the above which could not be used was destroyed. Among the trophies taken from the Indians was a guidon of the Seventh Cavalry, a pair of gloves marked Colonel Keogh, three Seventh Cavalry horses, and many other articles recognized as having belonged to Custer's command.

The next morning the three dead were buried, also Lieutenant Von Ludwick's leg. The men made a large fire over the burial place to conceal it from the Indians. Then the command started on. Lieutenant Von Ludwick was carried on a stretcher. He insisted, as he was being carried throughout the day, that the Indians were cutting up his leg and such proved to be the case. The next day Major Mason was sent back with five companies of the Fifth Cavalry to investigate and they found that the bodies had been dug up and cut to pieces and the bones crushed.

Years later, about 1920, Brigadier General Anson Mills, who as Captain of the Third Cavalry had made the surprise attack upon the Indian camp, and Brigadier General Charles Morton, a participant in the battle as Second Lieutenant of the Third Cavalry, wished to find the scene of the Battle of the Slim Buttes in order to erect a monument on that spot. The men while young officers had received a promotion because of this battle and now later as old men were anxious to view the old battle ground and place a monument there to commemorate the occasion. The battle field was located by Brigadier Generals Mills and Morton through the assistance of Bill Rumbough. Rumbough, who worked on the Abe Jones ranch for 17 years, had noticed some cooking utensils and many empty government shells while out riding, and reported to Mr. Jones the appar-

ent battlefield site. The officers recognized the spot as soon as they saw it, as it corresponded exactly with maps and records they had kept which were in government files.

The Slim Buttes Battlefield Monument was dedicated August 15, 1920, and on August 19, 1956 a roadside marker was dedicated opposite the monument on Highway 8. This roadside marker was established through cooperation of the state Highway Department, the Department of History and interested local residents.

(The account of the Battle of the Slim Buttes was taken from J. A. Kirkwood's account of the battle published in the Buffalo Times-Herald November 14, 1924, and interviews with Russ Wilson for Myrie Hanson's history. Russ Wilson participated in the battle.



Pictured above is the Slim Buttes Battlefield monument, dedicated in August, 1920. A historical marker was erected at the spot in August, 1956.

According to the State Historical Society, Mills and Morton did not find the true site of the battle while here in 1914, discovery of the true site being made by W. M. Camp of Chicago in 1917 with the help of E. W. Laisy, Louis Jones, W. W. Mitchell, Irl Mitchell, Eph Gray and E. P. Coffield.

BEGINNING OF PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

A part of the Great Sioux Indian Reservation since 1868, the present area of Harding county was opened to settlement in 1876, but it was 1893 before the area was surveyed. When the white man arrived in 1876 there were no buffalo in this area, though the plains were dotted with thousands of skeletons. It is believed that the severe winter of 1856 had killed many of them and that the rest had drifted out of the area. About 1880 the buffalo began to come back from the northwest to Harding county. Men then came to hunt the animals for their meat and hides. Some of the early buffalo hunters, or "buffalo skinners" as they were called, were Fred Bond, Bill Rumbaugh, Harley Shevling, Hiram Bickerdyke, Lafe Wamsley and a Mr. Palmer. Bickerdyke and Wamsley erected a dry house at the mouth of Dry House Creek near what later became the site of the Willett postoffice. Here they cured buffalo meat for sale in the Black Hills towns. About 1883, Harding county saw the extinction of the great herds of buffalo, although small herds continued to roam the area for a short time.

About 1883 the large southern cattle outfits began to move into the area. The cattle outfits, principally from Texas and Oklahoma, began to drive cattle north during the summer to graze on the rich buffalo grasses. They soon discovered that it was not necessary to make the return drive in the fall, but that cattle did well in this area during all but the most severe of winters. Thus the large ranch era was ushered in in Harding county.

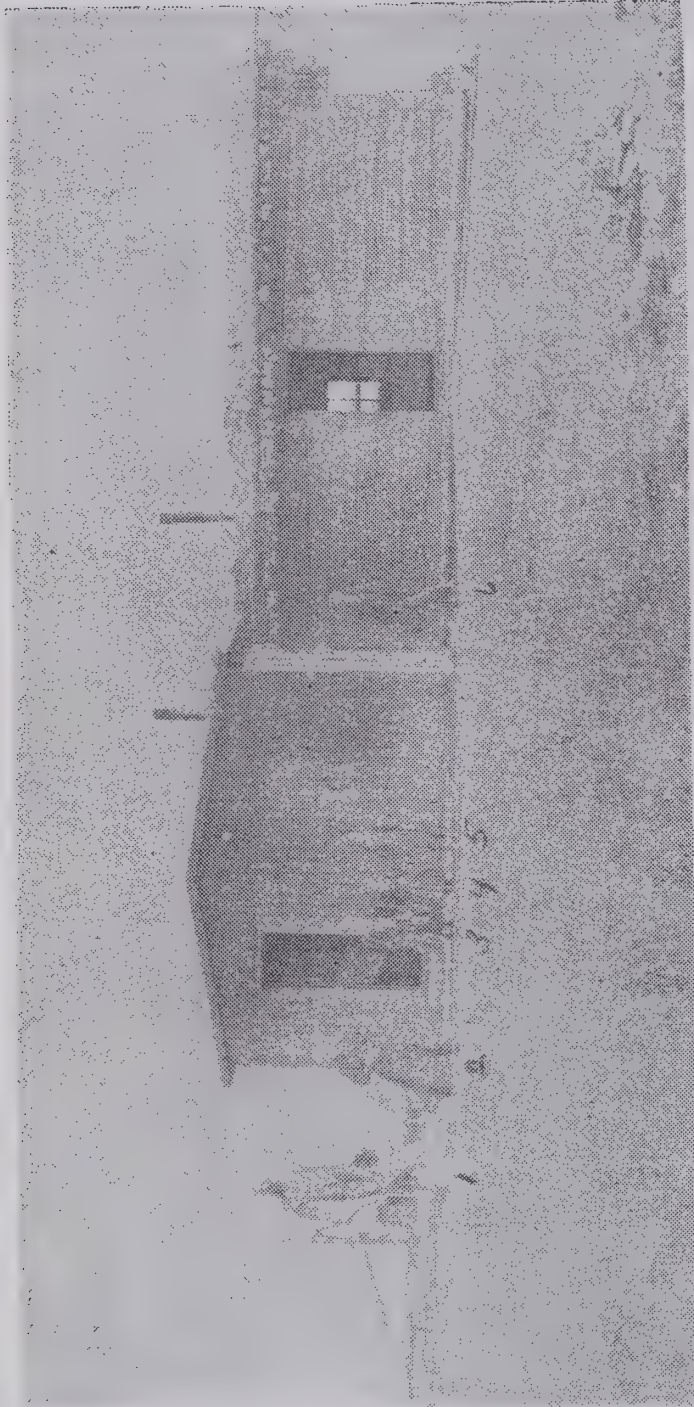
Some of the early large cattle outfits were the E6 on the Grand River, afterwards bought by the Turkey Track whose first foreman was Russ Wilson; the Hash-Knife or Mill Iron, whose 30,000 to 40,000 head of cattle grazed in western Harding county and Montana; the CY which ranged west of Buffalo to the Little Missouri area; the Roosevelt Ranch, whose headquarters was in the Badlands of North Dakota, but ranged cattle through this area. The Roosevelt brand was the Maltese Cross. Abe Jones had a large horse ranch located in the Slim Buttes. His brand was the B.

Some of the cowboys of this era included Joe Driskill, Russ Wilson, Jess Kerr, Pierce Black, Frank Gayden, Fred Jennewein, Charlie Gallagher, W. W. Mitchell, Pocahontas Clark, Bill Black, Alec Connell, Joe Johnson, Joe Hisaw, Delos Olson and a great number whose names have escaped old timers.

During these early days the large cattle outfits turned large herds loose in the area each year to shift for themselves. No attention was paid to them until the "round up" when they were cut out to be branded or sold. During shipping time the cattle were herded together after drifting for hundreds of miles. Each ranch had numerous cowboys and saddle horses to round up the herd and gather them in one place. Those to be shipped were cut out and trailed to the railway for shipment to market.

In the winter of 1883-87, which was one of the most severe winters on record in this area, many thousands of cattle died. This winter caused most of the large cattle outfits to go out of business.

During the time of the large cattle outfits, there were also a few sheep ranches. J. Grant had one in the southeastern part of the Short Pine Hills, while the Empire Sheep Company ranged near the present site of Buffalo, with headquarters near the present



DAVID WILLETT RESIDENCE PROBABLY FIRST PERMANENT HOME BUILT IN HARDING COUNTY

The David Willett log house, probably the first permanent dwelling in the present Harding county area, was built about 1881 two miles north of the present site of Harding. In picture are (1) David Willett, (2) Mrs. Willett, (3) Neola (Brewer), (4) Reba, (5) Lulu (Tennant) (6) Oren. Part of the house still stands. See story of Harding community.

Claude Olson ranch.

Paul G. Ames, one of the few remaining cowboys of the big ranch era in this part of the country, has written this brief account of the activities of the Turkey Track Ranch, one of the ranches which operated in this area near the turn of the century. Ames also rode for the CY.

"I have been asked to write a brief history of Turkey Track Cattle Co., which operated here on the Grand River from about 1892 to 1900 with headquarters about 15 miles east of Buffalo at the mouth of Jones Creek on the Grand River.

"This outfit was owned by Tony Day and Jim Cresswell. Day was a Texas man and Cresswell was a Canadian.

"They had a Turkey Track ranch in Texas and trailed their herd all the way from Texas about 1890 or 1892. Tennessee Vaughn was their trail boss. They purchased the old E6 cattle ranch on the Grand River which became known as the Turkey Track. At one time they ran about 45,000 head of cattle ranging over Harding, Perkins and Butte counties and Eastern Montana.

"They ran five wagons on the round-ups hiring about 75 to 80 men during the summer and using 700 to 800 head of saddle and work horses.

"They were what was called a cow and calf outfit, but also ran large numbers of steers.

"They had 500 head of Registered Hereford bulls which were close herded on Bull Creek for a short time when they first put them in; hence Bull Creek got its name.

"The summer of 1900 they sold out their ranch and cattle to Harris Franklyn of Deadwood, S. Dak., who at that time was running the old Mill Iron ranch on Box Elder in Montana, about where the Mill Iron post office is now located. I worked for the Turkey Track the summer of 1898. Albert Penn, father of the Penn Bros. of Harding worked there the same year. The Mill Iron closed out in 1904 and 1905."

Mr. Ames is now a resident of Spearfish, S. Dak., having retired from ranching in this county in 1955.

The coming of the smaller cattlemen who took up the main watering places and shelter, consisting of buttes and valleys, signaled the end of the large cow outfits in this area. Many of the men who came to the area with the large cattle outfits stayed on and established their own ranches. These men, who arrived in the area from the early eighties until the turn of the century, establishing homes and communities, can be regarded as the first permanent settlers. Among the first permanent settlers of the county are the following: In the eastern part of the county were Abe Jones from Missouri, who settled in the Slim Buttes in 1886; Horace and Bill Stevenson who came later in the same year and settled in the Slim Buttes; and Jim Hanson who also settled in the Slim Buttes and established the JX ranch, later owned by Walt Willard and presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walt Jarvi. On this ranch was erected the first windmill in Harding county. Others were Fred Bond from England and Bill Rumbaugh from Texas. James R. Howard settled on Big Nasty Creek near the present site of Ralph in 1896. Early settlers in the western part of the county included G. W. Nash

from Deadwood, in 1885; George Butcher and Dave Willett from Iowa, in 1883; F. W. White; Mr. E. P. Whitcomb, in 1885 and Louis Shevling and his mother Sarah Shevling, in 1885 from Kansas City. The above all settled near the present site of Harding and came between 1883 and 1893. Those who settled near the present site of Camp Crook included Sol Catron from Missouri in 1885; Dick Jackson from Missouri, and Mr. Wickham from Rapid City. Thomas Ashcroft arrived during this period and settled on the Little Missouri northeast of Camp Crook, establishing the first postoffice to be created in Harding county north of Camp Crook. In the southern part of the county Russ Wilson from Texas was one of the first settlers. W. H. Hamilton and the McKenzies were among the earliest settlers in the north central part of the county.

The early pioneers came for various reasons. Some came for the love of adventure; some because they wanted more room; others because they had heard of this area from friends who had passed through. One thing most of them had in common was the desire to improve their economic position. Most of the early houses were built of sod or were simple dugouts. Those near the timber were built of logs. Some of these early houses are still standing in the county. Furniture was of necessity very simple, since most of the pioneers moved by wagon and some came on foot. Practically all the furnishings of early homes were home made, with only stoves and a few dishes and cooking utensils being brought along by the earlier pioneers. Boxes often served as tables and chairs.

The last Indian scare in Harding county was in 1890, shortly after Sitting Bull was shot by the Indian Police on the Cheyenne Reservation. At this time some of Sitting Bull's band started up the Grand River toward Harding county, inhabitants were notified to go to the Black Hills settlements for protection. Many did so, while others remained in groups, fortifying themselves. One of these gathering places was at the Lewis ranch, called Fort Lewis, near Harding, which is covered in another section of this booklet. People of Camp Crook gathered at the Jess Kerr ranch with Dick Turbiville as their captain. The government sent soldiers to protect the settlers. Four companies of cavalry in charge of Captain Howard came from Fort Yates and headquartered at the Jones ranch in the Slim Buttes. The soldiers made use of the butte called the J.B. Castle Rock, just south of the Jones ranch. This butte served as a look-out, as they could view the country for a radius of fifty miles with a high powered field glass. The cavalry remained all winter to protect the isolated settlements and to intercept Indians and send them back in case they were leaving their reservations. The Indian scare proved needless, since no hostilities showed up.

The early settlers experienced many hardships, especially in times of sickness since no doctor was located nearer than about 125 miles from the settlements. At these times settlers depended heavily on cowboys from the early ranches. The JB horse ranch in the Slim Buttes typical of ranches which furnished help in these emergencies. The JB had excellent saddle horses and cowboys who were hardened into riding. These boys always returned with a doctor within 24 hours, although a round trip was a distance of 250 miles.

In case of sickness, when the JB ranch was notified, a rider would leave the JB for Belle Fourche or Sturgis, stopping at the

old BXB ranch, located where Hoover now stands. He would inform them of his errand and continue his journey. The BXB would, in the meantime, get the fastest driving team available and have them ready for the rider and the doctor on their return. At the Belle Fourche River the rider would leave his horse and get a fresh one, riding on to Belle Fourche or Sturgis. Leaving his horse there, he would take a team and buggy, and would return with the doctor. The rider did not close his eyes on the trip. One such trip was reportedly made in from eight to ten feet of snow. Lant Merritt, who was foreman of the JB ranch for years, made the trip in 22 hours, which was the fastest trip ever recorded.

The following article, written by Paul G. Ames in August, 1955, describes such a trip, made in September, 1897:

"I was working for Ed McCumsey in the Cave Hills at that time. He built the ranch where Ludlow Postoffice was first established and which is now owned by Neil Ketchum.

"Ed had two young sons, one probably about three and the other about five years old. Both became very sick rather suddenly. During the night the parents became alarmed and decided they



PAUL G. AMES, ONE OF THE EARLY DAY COWBOYS

must have medical attention. The nearest doctor was L. J. Townsend of Belle Fourche.

"I had just come in from a sixty mile ride and had gotten soundly to sleep when at 10:30 Ed woke me up and said, 'You had better take Old Nig and go to Belle Fourche for the doctor. If you ride him right I think he will take you there without changing

horses and you will make better time than by going off the road to some ranch to change horses, especially at night.'

"At 11:00 I started. It was a clear night but dark of the moon. I had been carrying the mail to Macy all summer so knew the road pretty well. The old Medora stage road was the main traveled road and the only road to Belle Fourche from the Cave Hills at that time. This route is now closely followed by Highway 85 except where the highway engineers wandered off following section lines and turning square corners, making the road some ten miles further than it used to be. That was in the horse and buggy days when they had to use horse sense, going straight to a point of destination, the shortest route between two points.

"I had my 17th birthday in July of that year and had the bad habit of wanting to sleep nights so by the time I had reached the Medora road crossing on Grand River where the town of Buffalo is now located, I was so sleepy I could hardly keep awake so I got off my horse, took a good drink of Grand River water and washed my face. This revived me for a time but by the time I got to the North Moreau River divide I went to sleep. Old Nig kept plugging along but he knew where the Van Horn ranch was located so quit the road and was headed across the prairie to the ranch. He had traveled about a half mile off the road when I awoke from my nap! At first I did not know where I was but the stars were shining and I soon located the North Star and got my bearings and decided I was west of the road. I remembered where I had been when I went to sleep so I pulled Old Nig eastward and picked up the road again in about a mile. This scared me so badly that I wasn't bothered by being sleepy any more; besides I probably had at least a 30 minute nap as Old Nig had made about five miles during the interval. I arrived at Macey for an early breakfast, fed and watered Old Nig and arrived in Belle Fourche at 10:00 a. m. By that time Nig was trotting pretty slowly and I had to use my spurs some which had never been necessary before, but he made it.

"Mrs. McCumsey's brother, Charley Oliver, was working in Belle Fourche at this time. He hired the best team of horses Butts & Cleveland Livery Stable had on hand and he and Dr. L. J. Townsend started at once for Ludlow, changing horses at the Billy Fugate ranch on the North Grand River. Billy was noted for the fine driving horses which he raised on his ranch. This enabled them to reach Ludlow in 12 hours from the time they left Belle Fourche and in time to save these small boys' lives. Dr. Townsend found them suffering from very bad cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria in those days was considered a very dangerous and often fatal disease for young children. Where they might have picked up this germ will always remain a mystery to me, living as they were so isolated. It was five miles to the nearest neighbor and the only other children in the neighborhood at the time were the two young daughters of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Lilly who were living on the old Pete Riley ranch and who were in perfect health.

"After I had seen Charley Oliver and Dr. Townsend started on their way I went out to a pasture near Belle Fourche where Charley was keeping some of his horses. There I left Old Nig, the only horse that ever made that hundred miles in eleven hours. He had a chance to rest there for a month or two until we had a chance

to bring him back to the Ludlow ranch. In his place I took Slim, one of Charley's top horses and I got as far as Crow Creek where I stayed that night with a round-up wagon that was camped there. I got an early start the next morning and arrived at the ranch that evening.

Dr. Townsend, who passed away about 1955, often chuckled about an incident on that trip, according to Mr. Ames. He said that when they were returning to Belle Fourche he was catching up on a little sleep as he had been up all night with the sick children. He awoke to find that Charley who was doing the driving had also fallen asleep and the team had left the road and were taking their own way on the prairie. The doctor did not interfere but let them continue on till at last they came to a mud butte and stopped. This awoke Charley and he blinked his eyes and said, "Where in hell are we?" Dr. Townsend said, "Darned if I know, you are doing the driving."

This is just one of the many such trips Dr. Townsend was called upon to make in those horse and buggy days looking after patients in this Tri-State area.

The earliest pioneers of Harding county received their mail either at Deadwood or Minnesela, a distance of about one hundred miles from the settlers. Mail would be held by the postmasters until some one from Harding county made a trip to town, when they sent all the mail out for the county. Mail was distributed as soon as the settlers could be informed of its arrival in the county. Mail day was a great occasion for the settlers who came from miles around for their mail, taking advantage of one of these infrequent gatherings to visit or perhaps enjoy a dance.

Later a post office was established at Macy with Mr. Macy as postmaster. To the settlers, this was welcome news, because they would have, as it seemed to them, mail at their very doorsteps. Actually, however, the establishment of the Macy postoffice meant that mail would be brought within a range of fifty miles from most of the settlers, a distance not considered great at that time. The people in the vicinity of the Slim Buttes as well as in most other settlements took turns going for the mail. The first mail carried by government men was from Minnesela to Camp Crook. As the area became more thickly settled, many small postoffices were established to serve the growing population. Information on several of these will be presented in another section of this book. With the advent of the automobile and good roads, the necessity for these postoffices has declined, with the result that many of them have been discontinued and supplanted with regular mail routes.

The early settlers had a long distance to go for their supplies. The chief trading places were Miles City, Montana; Dickinson, Minnesela, Deadwood, Rapid City, and Sturgis, Dakota Territory. They traveled with buckboards, lumber wagons or on horseback, usually bringing back enough supplies to last for the winter.

Early pioneers gathered at various ranches and school houses to hold religious services. The first Sunday school was organized at the home of M. Gilbert on September 4, 1887, according to information gathered by Myrle G. Hanson. On September 11, 1887, Sunday school was held in the school house for the first time. The

first church service held with the assistance of a minister was at the Nashville school house on March 10, 1889, according to Hanson's information, with the Rev. Sempler, a Presbyterian minister from Rapid City in charge. The Rev. Sempler held four devotional meetings in Nashville and conducted services in Camp Crook during his stay in Harding county. Further information on early churches and ministers will be more completely developed in the story of individual early settlements.

OLD TIMER RECALLS COWBOY ANTICS

Cowboys who played an important part in the early history of Harding county were an irrepressible breed, as shown by the following incident recalled by Alex T. Macnab, Ekalaka:

The following incident typical of early range days occurred several years before the town of Buffalo was even thought of. It was in 1901 when three men from New York camped along the old road that led from Belle Fourche to the Cave Hills that crossed the South Grand River near where Buffalo is now located. These men were gold prospectors and had been informed that that precious mineral was to be found in the river.

They hired a team and outfit from Belle Fourche and camped alongside the river for two weeks looking for the evasive mineral. They were pretty well equipped and of course had a good supply of liquor on hand with which they regaled some of the infrequent passers by.

Two of the CY cowboys who stopped at their camp were invited to have a drink and they readily accepted. On returning to their camp they told two of their friends about the prospectors and their liquor, so they decided to make a night raid on their camp.

They came whooping down, shooting and yelling like wild Indians, got their horses and drove them a short distance away. A little later two of the boys rode to their camp and asked what all the noise was about. The prospectors told them the Indians had stolen their horses, so the cowboys told them not to worry as they would get them back, and rode off. After a while they returned with the team and all were royally treated.

The prospectors told me of the raid and a few days after one of the cowboys told me of the episode.

HOMESTEAD ERA MAIN FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT OF HARDING COUNTY

The homestead era, or the era of the "honyocker", which in Harding county reached its peak between 1907 and 1914, was perhaps the biggest factor in development of Harding county, triggering development of a number of new communities and bringing as a result development of county government, with building of roads and development of schools, churches, clubs, lodges and other social organizations.

The era of the hunter and trapper, the large and the smaller rancher, when land was free or at any rate when its use by the first person to occupy it went unquestioned, was replaced by this period in which it was necessary to secure some legal title to land which the settler wished to use. As new settlers began to arrive in ever increasing numbers, demand and competition for land was great.

There were several methods of securing rights to land. The earliest means was by preemption, followed by the homestead, and later by purchase from private owners.

Preemption, the means used by the earlier settlers, was mainly a possessory right, established by construction of a house and the making of improvements. This secured the settler's right to purchase land at the minimum price, before the general sale of the tract of land of which his claim was a part. This means was used by the early cattle ranchers until about 1891.

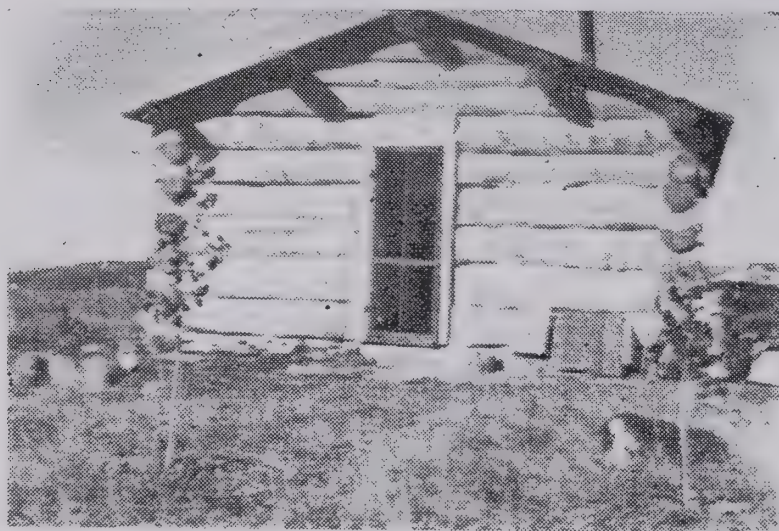
Homesteading was the principal means of securing land in this area from about 1907 until 1914, with additional homestead entries being made much later in some areas. Under the homestead laws any one 21 years of age could take up a homestead of 160 acres. Two methods of "proving up" on the homestead could be used; first, living on the homestead and having part of it under cultivation for a period of 14 months and then paying \$1.25 an acre, or living on the homestead for a period of three years, in which case it was unnecessary to pay anything except the filing costs. The majority of the homesteaders adopted the first plan. However, the homesteaders who came with the idea of establishing a permanent home in the county were more inclined to follow the second procedure.

The homesteaders or "honyockers", as they were called by the ranchers, started coming to this county in quite large numbers in 1907. A greater number arrived each consecutive year until the maximum number arrived in 1910, then they gradually decreased in number until by 1914 very few additional persons arrived to take up homesteads. The homesteaders in this county usually "proved up" and left in a period of fourteen months to three years. The years of 1910 and 1911 were extremely dry and unproductive, and many of the homesteaders left in 1911. Each successive year some of the remaining ones left until a very few of the original homesteaders remained.

Many factors were involved in the coming of the homesteaders. Some came for the purpose of becoming land owners, thinking they could make a better living on this land which they would own. These folks sincerely desired to found homes here, and many have "stuck it out" through the years until the present time. Others wanted to get ownership of land for speculative reasons as they be-

HOMESTEAD SHACKS

Homestead "shacks" of the early homestead days in this area were mainly of three types, as illustrated in the pictures on these pages:



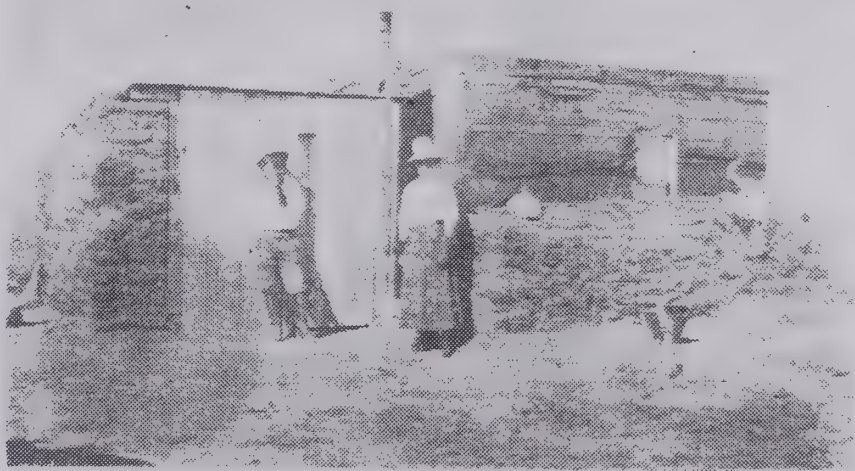
The log house, built by those near timbered areas, was one of the more permanent types favored by early settlers. Many of these are still standing. This is the Art Mendenhall homestead, pictured as it appeared about 1906.



The soddy. Sod houses were warm in winter, cool in summer and very economical to construct. Pictured is the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Niemi in the South Cave Hills, as it appeared in July, 1921.



The typical "tarpaper shack" with sod lean-to, was the most common type of "honyocker's" dwelling. Pictured above is Mrs. Santi Haivala (Jessie Jones) before the door of her shanty.



Pictured here are Margarette Forman and Gus Salmen on her homestead. They are now Mr. and Mrs. Gus Salmen of San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The native sod was used in some form in nearly all of the "shanties", either for the main walls, lean-to coal sheds to store lignite and other supplies, or as banking to keep the cold prairie winds out from under the floors.

lieved the land would increase in price. The financial panic of 1907 increased the number of both of these groups. A considerable number of this second group have retained ownership of their land, believing in the future of the area through mineral and oil development. Most of these folks have leased their land to neighboring ranchers, who keep up the taxes annually in exchange for the use of the land. In the past few years the faith of these folks has been justified in many cases, with oil companies having leased the land for exploration and production.

Rainfall was also abnormally great from 1907 to 1909 and in the fall of 1907 the Milwaukee Railroad reached Lemmon, S. Dak., and Bowman, N. Dak., causing many more to settle in the area. The homesteaders at first settled close to the railroad, but by 1908 most of the land near the railroad was taken up and they began to file in Harding county some thirty to sixty miles from the railroad.

Most of the homesteaders were young but otherwise were a very heterogeneous group. There were farmers, mechanics, lawyers, school teachers, nurses, clerks, merchants, ministers, musicians, men and women from practically every occupation. Many of these folks came to get ownership of land with no idea of settling permanently. Therefore, as each usually brought enough money to live on for fourteen months and as most of them did no more farming than the homestead law demanded, there were many social gatherings such as dances and card parties. These gatherings usually lasted until morning as all could see better to go home by daylight and all could sleep during the day. Each community had its baseball team which traveled great distances and often played several days away from home at a time as there was no necessity of getting home. The homesteaders had an opportunity to have a good time and most of them took full advantage of it. The majority of them would prove up, then take out a loan on their land and move out, never to return or to redeem their land. Those who remained to live in the county proved to be the exception and not the rule. The great exodus of the homesteader is shown by the fact that the population of Harding county in 1910 was 4228, in 1915, 4821, in 1920, 3953, and in 1925, 3508. This decreasing trend in population continued, and after the drouth years of the '30's, still more of the homesteaders and small ranchers left the county. The population of Harding county by the 1950 census, was listed at 2285.

The coming of the homesteaders brought a new problem for the ranchers. Before this they had open range. Now all this was changed as the homesteader occupied each quarter section, and in many cases fenced it or at least part of it. If the rancher wished to remain in business, it was now necessary for him to buy or lease his range. This increased his overhead to a great extent and of course some friction was certain to result between the rancher and that class of homesteader who believed it would be possible to make a living by farming on a 160 acre tract. These homesteaders were to learn by experience that because of limited rainfall and great distance to markets, this area was primarily adapted to ranching and not to farming. The homesteaders who remained eventually adopted ranching in some form or another. Since the disastrous drouth years of the '30's, grain farming has become more limited in the county, and range building and conservation practices have been widely followed to build a stable and balanced agricultural

economy. Extensive farming is now confined mainly to the north-eastern and extreme east central areas of the county, where soils are heavier and rainfall somewhat heavier.

As the homesteaders swelled the population of the area, many small but thriving communities sprung up, complete with stores, blacksmith shops, schools, churches, hotels and other business places, including saloons and community halls. These various communities can best be treated in individual stories in this booklet. The development led to the need for establishment of a centralized local seat of government closer than the distant Black Hills settlements and the northern railroad towns, so the people set about to establish the new county of Harding.

HERE'S TO HARDING COUNTY, THE LAND OF THE FREE THE HOME OF THE BEDBUG, GRASSHOPPER AND FLEA

Perhaps no historical booklet on homesteading days would be complete without some reference to the insect pests, which often plagued the settlers. Such experiences were responsible for a number of songs, such as the one which inspired the line above.

A lady who has been helping gather material for this book asked the other day, "Have you mentioned anything about the bedbugs yet?"

Up to that time we had not mentioned the pesky little night visitors, and it seems there is little in historic reference about the bug who eventually became most homesteaders' most intimate companion. It will be recalled by most folks that each family had its experiences involving the bedbug, and at harvest time, shearing time or almost any other time, when the housewife had just succeeded in eradicating the last bug, someone moved in to stay overnight, apparently bringing a suitcase or bedroll full of the varmints. It was often said that once a house became inhabited by the prolific bedbug, the only way to get rid of them was to burn down the house.

Looking back, it appears that these stories have suffered none in the telling, but a strange fact which will be recalled by many is that the bedbugs at home eventually seemed to tire of eating the family, or the family became immune, but to stop at another house overnight when they were in the middle of a bedbug plague, was to spend a sleepless night rolling, tossing, swatting and scratching.

The bedbug finally succumbed to doses of DDT in later years, and folks have overcome their reluctance to discuss the varmints, even remembering this nuisance of the "good old days" with a certain element of fondness.

The grasshopper is an insect which has had considerably more economic effect on Harding county, with periodic plagues following drouth resulting in disaster to farmers and ranchers. Of course, even the grasshopper recalls humorous stories. One of these concerned a young man who left the windows of his automobile open during a grasshopper infestation in the thirties. Finding shade, the hoppers moved in by the thousands. When the young man returned to his car, the lush green nap had been completely grazed off from the upholstery. Many are the stories of carelessly placed forks and other tools which lost their handles to the prodigious appetites of the Harding county grasshopper.



ORGANIZATION OF HARDING COUNTY AND LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT

The following account of the organization of Harding county is taken from Myrie G. Hanson's "History of Harding County", which was compiled by Prof. Hanson while he was Superintendent of Buffalo High School:

The question as to whether Butte county, which consisted of the present counties of Butte, Perkins and Harding, should be divided and Harding and Perkins counties become separate counties was voted upon in 1909. In this election the people of Perkins and Harding counties decided to separate. Harding county, as established by the election of 1909, thus became bounded on the west by the state of Montana, on the north by Bowman county, North Dakota, on the east by Perkins county, and on the south by Butte county. It consists of 2682 square miles or approximately 1,716,460 acres.

The county commissioners of these counties met in Belle Fourche on April 1, 1909, for the purpose of settling the indebtedness of the respective counties. It was decided to divide the outstanding indebtedness in the following manner. After the total outstanding indebtedness was ascertained, each county was to assume its proportionate amount based on the valuation for each county for the previous assessment.

One of the first important questions that arose within the newly created county was that of finding a suitable location for a county seat. The people of Camp Crook advanced the following reasons why that location should be chosen: (1) Camp Crook was the largest town in the county; (2) The community around Camp Crook was thickly settled; (3) It was one of the oldest towns and settlements in the county; and (4) inasmuch as no other town consisted of more than a store or two, Camp Crook was the only place which had facilities for a county seat, a matter of great im-



FIRST COUNTY OFFICIALS OF HARDING COUNTY ELECTED JANUARY 26, 1909

First county officials of Harding county, pictured on facing page are: Standing—Chas. H. Davis, Sheriff; M. A. Keene, Clerk of Courts; J. A. Clarkson, County Treasurer; George H. Jackson, County Judge. Seated—Fred R. Howard, Commissioner; L. A. DeBelloy, Commissioner; Fred W. Wilson, County Auditor; J. S. Whitney, Register of Deeds; W. M. Bennett, State's Attorney; Fred Doten, Commissioner. Officials not pictured were: Anne J. Sparks (Mrs. W. M. Bennett), County Superintendent of Schools, and T. G. Ames, County Assessor.

portance from the standpoint of economy.

However, the settlers living near the geographical center of the county observed their favorable position and decided to enter the fight for the county seat. They located a new town site by running lines from the northwest corner of the county to the southeast corner, and from the northeast corner to the southwest corner. Where the lines intersected, they decided to locate the new town and call it Buffalo. Later it was thought best to make use of the present location about five miles distant from the first site. The new site was on the north bank of the south fork of the Grand River located on the old Medora-Black Hills stage crossing. 40 acres of land were purchased on this site by Ray Gilbert, Frank Gilbert, William Fried and Frank Van Horn, all settlers near the center of the county. Ray and Frank Gilbert formed a partnership known as Gilbert Brothers and Company, erected a building on the site and organized the Grand River Store in the fall of 1908. Other buildings erected were the Van Horn Hotel, the Harding County Bank and the Harding County Era building. Soon Buffalo became a thriving young town, determined to put up a strenuous fight for county seat honors.

Those who favored Buffalo for the county seat pointed out that the new town was almost exactly in the center of the county, whereas the rival, Camp Crook, was on the extreme western boundary of the county, just three miles from the Montana line.

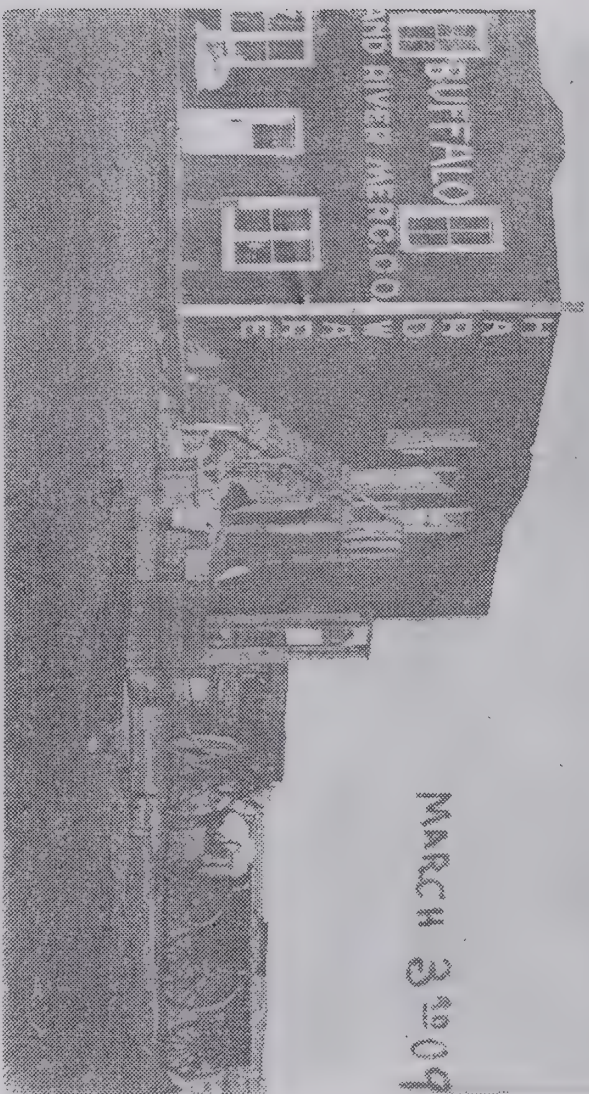
A bitter fight followed between the two towns for the county seat. The county commissioners ordered an election to be held January 26, 1909, to decide the question. As the election approached, both towns did all in their power to get votes. For example, Gilbert Brothers and Company offered the county five rooms for office space above the Grand River Store, rent free for two years, and the 40 acres of town site for \$414 if Buffalo were chosen to be the county seat. The people of Camp Crook, not to be outdone, the following week advertised that they would give the county a gift of \$2400 and 40 acres of land if Camp Crook were chosen. To gain votes, both towns offered free entertainment, chiefly dances and ball games, to attract people from all parts of the county. At these gatherings, speakers presented the advantages of the town in which the celebration was taking place. As liquor flowed rather freely, fights between the supporters of each town were not infrequent at these gatherings. The election resulted in a victory for Buffalo, with the vote as follows: Buffalo, 432; Camp Crook, 187. Buffalo, therefore, became the temporary county seat.

The county officials in the accompanying picture were elected at the first election held on January 26, 1909.

At the November election in 1910 the question of the permanent county seat was settled, Buffalo again securing the majority. The vote was Buffalo, 814; Camp Crook, 159.

The county officials had their offices over the Grand River Store until 1911 when the court house was built on the present site.

GRAND RIVER STORE SERVED AS FIRST COURT HOUSE

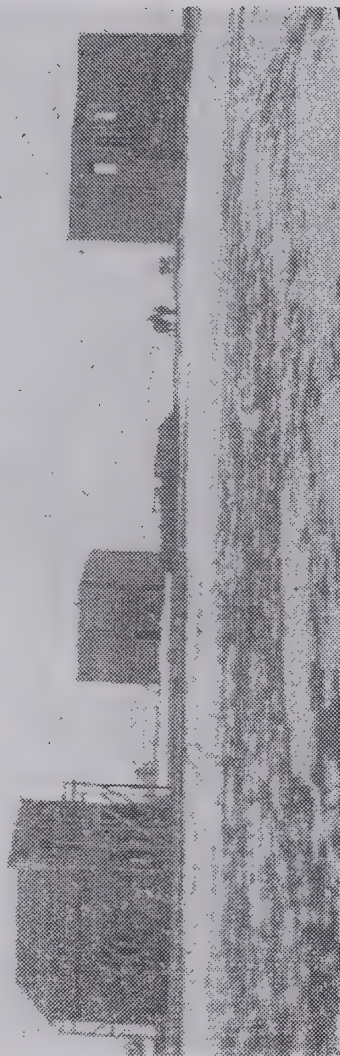


The Grand River Mercantile Co. store, built in the fall of 1908 by Gilbert Brothers and Company, served as the first court house for the new county, with county offices located above the store until 1911.

THE NEW TOWN ON THE PRAIRIE

BUFFALO S. DAK.

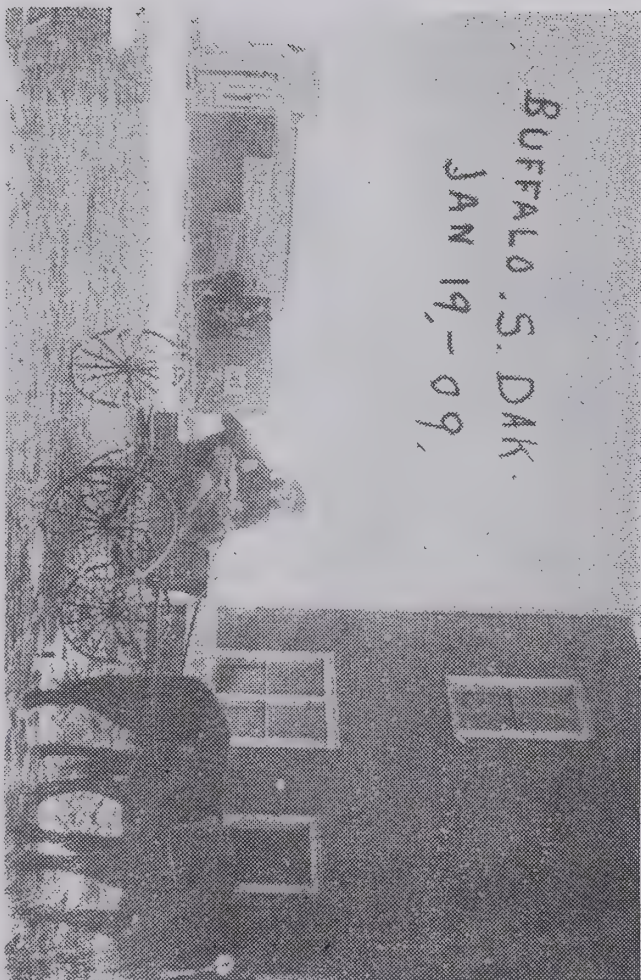
JAN 19-09



The new town which sprung up on the prairie in the winter of 1908-09, is shown as it appeared in January, 1909. Buildings pictured are (left) the Harding County Bank, (center) the Van Horn Hotel, and (right) the Grand River Mercantile Co. The view is looking west on Main Street from about where Main Street and U. S. Highway 85 now intersect.

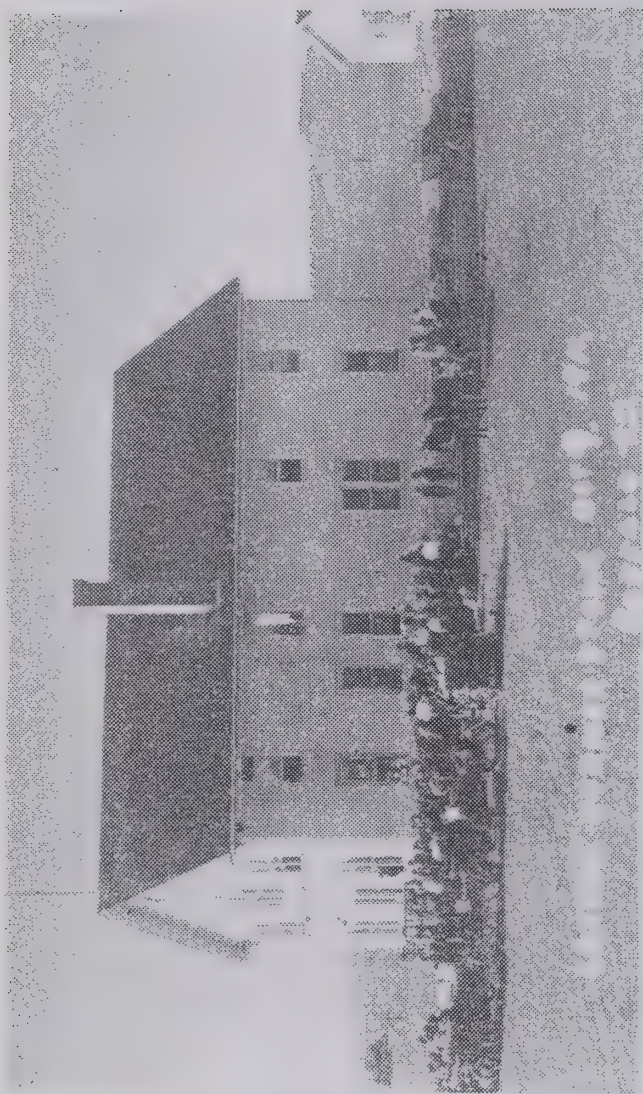
NORTH SIDE OF BUFFALO'S MAIN STREET

BUFFALO, S. DAK.
JAN 19, - 09,



Pictured here is Buffalo's Main Street on January 19, 1909, looking west from the front of the Grand River Merc. Co. to Bob Hickernell's restaurant, with the old Gilbert sheep wagon behind which was used as living quarters. W. M. Bennett recalls eating oyster stew at Hickernell's on Jan. 26, 1909. Lady in foreground is not identified.

DEDICATION OF THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE



In October, 1911 the new Harding county court house was dedicated with an appropriate ceremony attended by many of the residents of the new county. The building, with several additions and improvements, has served the county to date.

COUNTY ENTERS ERA OF STEADY DEVELOPMENT

After the organization of Harding county, the area entered upon an era of steady economic development, an era which, with the exception of periods of serious drouth conditions experienced in 1911, about 1919 and 1935-36, has continued at a steady pace until the present.

With the exodus of the homesteader and the trend away from small farms to larger and more economic ranch units, the population has declined until at the present time it is estimated at about 2300 people, as compared with 4228 in 1910 at the height of the homesteading period. The county seat has grown in population, but all other towns in the area, which with the exception of Camp Crook, were limited to a population of only a couple of families, have decreased in number and population. Improved roads, which began to replace the prairie trails shortly after the organization of the county, have improved until at present the county is crossed north and south by U. S. Highway 85, an oiled federal highway which has grown to be a main traffic artery for interstate traffic. State Highway No. 8, which crosses the county east and west through the center, has been improved from Buffalo east to the Slim Buttes, with blotter type surfacing extending to Squaw Creek west of the Slim Buttes and a new grade continuing to a point east of Reva, where State Highway 75 runs north to the North Dakota state line south of Reeder, N. Dak. This highway is oiled for seven miles and is scheduled for further improvement in the near future. Gravel roads have been built in recent years to serve most other communities in the county, and graded dirt roads make up the remainder of the county's transportation facilities.

Improved roads have contributed greatly to the demise of the small country store and postoffice, by bringing trading centers within easy driving distance of most residents. Trucking is a major industry in Harding county, and practically all livestock and other products are moved out by truck, while supplies for town and country alike come in exclusively by truck. Until the early thirties, and even as late as 1936, trail herds of cattle and sheep moved to railroad points across the prairies and along the roads. Fast trucking service has made this impractical.

Harding county has never been served with a railroad, with the closest railway station to the north from the center of the county at Bowman, N. Dak., a distance of 48 miles. To the south the nearest railroad point from the center of the county is Belle Fourche, a distance of about 73 miles. However, Harding county has not been without its railroad "booms." In 1916 efforts were made to induce either the Milwaukee Railroad on the north, or the Northwestern Railroad on the south to construct a line through Harding and Perkins counties. After the failure of this attempt, an effort was made to construct a local line to be built by citizens of the two counties. Apparently the last effort made to get a railroad in Harding county was in 1921. It was proposed to construct a line south from Lemmon through Meadow, then west through Bison, and Strool in Perkins county and on to Buffalo, then south to Belle Fourche.

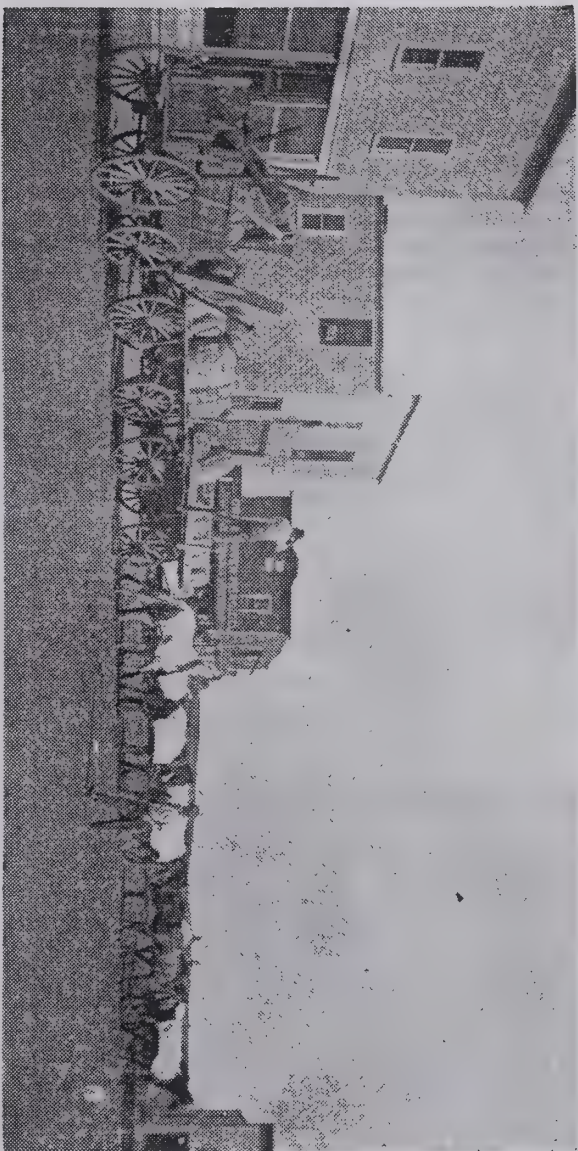
All efforts toward securing a railroad failing, booster groups

IT WAS A LONG TRAIL IN THE EARLY DAYS BY OX TEAM



Copied from an old framed picture owned by V. L. Hungerford, Ralph, this picture shows a four wagon load of barrel beer, preparing to hit the trail from Bowman to Buffalo. This ox team outfit belonged to Al Carr of Buffalo. Lacking railroad facilities, Harding county's early history was closely tied to the freight wagon, in much the same way as it is tied to the trucking industry today.

FREIGHTING TO BUFFALO WITH TEN HORSE TEAM



Freighting supplies in early days was a man-sized chore, as this picture would indicate. The ten-horse, three wagon rig was driven by Sam Fellows, now of La Grange, Ohio, who hauled many thousands of tons of freight from Bowman to Buffalo. The load pictured represents nearly a carload of beer for Al Carr's saloon, freighted in here in 1914. Bill Fellows said most of the beer was freighted from Gascayne, due to a habit of the Bowman fellows of raiding the wagons.

turned their efforts toward promotion of adequate highways. This has since been a continuous struggle.

Early day roads were nothing but trails leading across the prairie, but had the advantage of taking the closest route to one's destination. There were no bridges and it was necessary to ford each river or creek as one was reached. The rivers and creeks were usually easy to ford but after a rain occasionally a week or more elapsed before some could be crossed, which sometimes proved quite inconvenient. (Several such fords are in use in Harding county today, on the Little Missouri and Grand River principally).

With the coming of the early automobile, fording rivers and creeks became something of a game in which every one owning a car competed with other owners of cars in crossing rivers under the most unfavorable conditions. Each owner was usually certain that his car, combined with his driving skill, was far superior to that of any of his rivals. An episode growing out of this "game" was related in Myrle Hanson's "History of Harding County" as follows:

After a heavy rain in 1912 a prominent citizen of Buffalo attempted unsuccessfully to ford the Grand River. A crowd soon congregated and offered free advice. Finally some one suggested that the car must be one not suitable for crossing fords. Before long he had wagered drinks for the crowd with the unfortunate car owner that he could get a car from town that would cross the river at the same ford within thirty minutes. After the wager was made he went uptown and soon reappeared leading a man by the name of Al Carr with a rope around his neck. He led him across the river and the crowd laughingly went uptown into a saloon at the invitation of the one who had won the wager and had their drinks. When the loser appeared he told everyone to have drinks on him, but he invited them to a different saloon, saying that although the drinks were on him, he would decide where they should be bought. Hence the crowd followed him to the second saloon and had drinks a second time.

(Al Carr, Buffalo pioneer mentioned in the above story, passed away in Idaho in July, 1959.)

In 1915 a public meeting was held to work out a means of providing better roads. Out of this start grew the county highway system which at present includes approximately 1000 miles of improved roads, with bridges across creeks and major roads graded and graveled to provide all weather travel.

The trail from Bowman, N. Dak. to Buffalo was improved in 1917. Carl M. Cornell, surveyor, who was connected with this first major road improvement, has been closely connected with highway work in the county to this date.

Working for highway improvement has been one of the major projects of the Buffalo Commercial Club, which was organized early in the life of the county seat, and has been dedicated to working for projects which would benefit Harding county. The organization, changed to the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce in 1957, has worked hard for highway development, and perhaps has been instrumental in improvement of the two major highways which serve the area.

Early efforts to establish telephone communication with the outside world began with the formation of the Belle Fourche and Northern Telephone Company in February, 1909. The company intended to connect Belle Fourche, Harding, Camp Crook and Buffalo with a telephone system. Construction was started and the line was completed and put into operation. However, the line from Buffalo to Camp Crook fell into disrepair and was soon discontinued.

In 1920 another attempt was made to establish a telephone system through the Northwest Telephone Exchange Company of Hettinger, N. Dak. The proposed line was to connect Hettinger to Buffalo, thence to Camp Crook and to Marmarth, N. Dak. Although the people of Buffalo and others to be served endorsed the project, adverse financial conditions at the time doomed the enterprise to failure. In 1928 the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company constructed a line to Buffalo and Camp Crook, and since that time the formation of community telephone companies has expanded telephone service to nearly all parts of the county. At present the Camp Crook Telephone Co., operated by Mr. and Mrs. Melray Hoag, serves the Camp Crook area, while the various country companies to the north, east, south and west of Buffalo tie into the Bell System at Buffalo. A modern dial system is operated by the Bell Company, and in the northeastern part of Harding county, dial telephone service is being provided through RTA. The Sorum Telephone Co. pioneered service in eastern Harding county.

In 1952, Grand Electric Cooperative, an REA electric cooperative, built lines into Harding county, enabling ranchers as well as town people to modernize their homes and put electricity to work pumping water and doing other jobs around the ranches.



Highway promotion stunt—A group of Buffalo men, including Albert Rasmus, Matt Hann, H. F. Gilbert and W. R. Gardner Jr. pictured fishing on State Highway 8 as a stunt to call attention to the need for better highways. Shortly after this, the road was improved with a high type grade and blotter type surfacing.



Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Fellows, who operated the Buffalo Telephone Exchange for many years, are shown making the first call on the new dial system in March, 1954.

CHURCHES OF HARDING COUNTY

A story of the growth and development of the various churches of Harding county could well fill a book such as this, so for the purpose of summary, in addition to mention made of church and religious life in stories of various communities, we might say here that the growth and development of Harding county has been closely tied together with church activities by members of the various faiths. Some of the early churches in the county have been combined as the automobile enabled faster travel. At present Lutheran churches attached to the Buffalo Parish hold services at Buffalo, Bullock, Capitol, Mont., Ladner and Ludlow, with Pastor Laurell Larsen of Buffalo as minister. Services are held at the Cave Hills Finnish Lutheran church with Pastor Jack Hill of Lead as minister. Services are also held at the Slim Buttes Lutheran church east of Reva. Members of the Catholic faith have churches at Buffalo, Camp Crook, Cox, Reva-Strool, and Vessey-Ralph. These churches are served by Father Don Murray and Father Joseph Zeller and are known as St. Anthony's Missions. Members of the Methodist churches at Harding and Camp Crook and the Congregational church at Buffalo are served by Rev. Kenneth Farr of Buffalo. The Buffalo Gospel Tabernacle at Buffalo serves a wide area for the Assembly of God, with Rev. Mildred Horton and Rev. Ada Blick as co-pastors. The Seventh Day Adventists hold regular services at Camp Crook.

The part played by early day ministers in the development of Harding county is probably as important as that of any group of pioneers. Reference to this comes in most of the community stories

gathered in each area.

Pictured here are a few churches which serve the area. Many of the rural communities are now served by fine new churches also.



The Buffalo Congregational church was organized early in the history of the county seat, and the building was built in 1911.



Grand River Lutheran church, dedicated on Sept. 10, 1950, after many years of holding services in a basement church.



Gospel Tabernacle—The Buffalo Gospel Tabernacle was built in 1933 of native logs with men of the congregation doing the work.



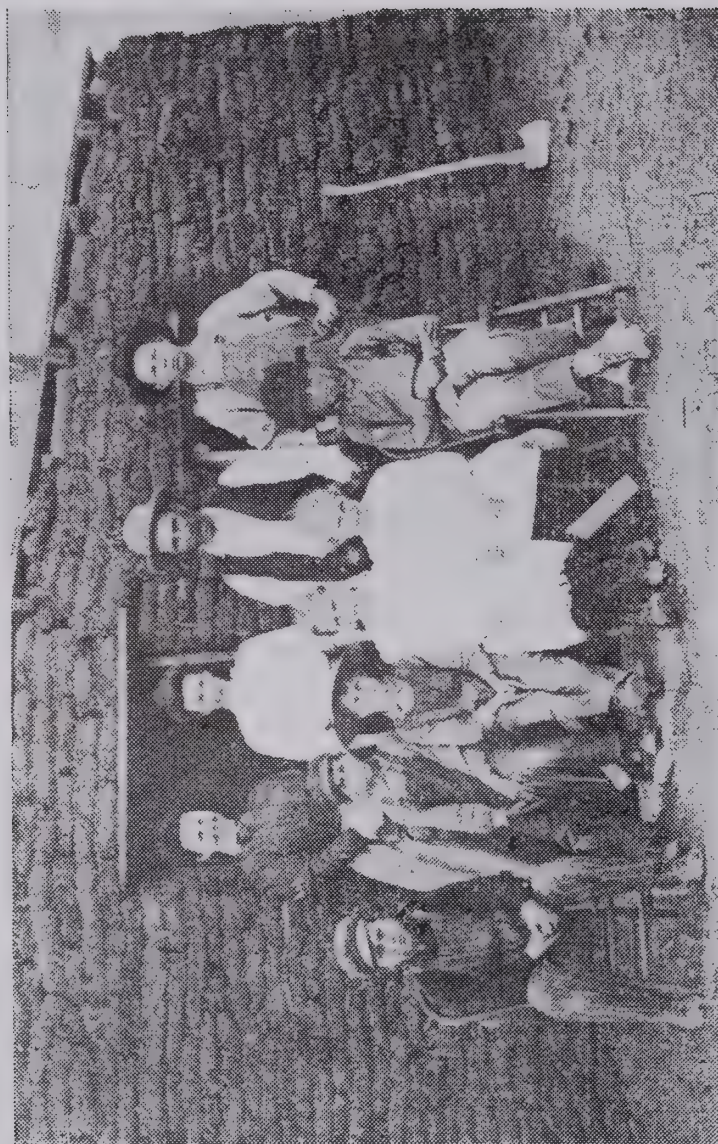
St. Anthony's Catholic church, built in 1952 to replace the old Catholic church which was built in Buffalo's early days

EDUCATION IN HARDING COUNTY

Schools, like the churches, played a very important part in the development of Harding county. The first school was established in the Harding (Nashville) community in the early 1880's, in a small log building. John S. Whitney receives the credit as the first schoolmaster. As the settlements grew and spread, school classes were held in sod buildings, log buildings, and homestead shacks until more suitable quarters could be built. Harding county folks have always worked to keep abreast of educational developments. At the time of county organization in 1908-09, the county was divided into four districts—Harding, Camp Crook, Cave Hills and Slim Buttes. There were 25 schools in these districts and 27 teachers. New school districts were formed as needed, until in 1925, there were 34 districts, with 65 schools with a total of 1,120 children and 72 teachers. As better roads were developed and the population decreased due to the trend toward larger ranch units, districts were consolidated and many rural schools have been discontinued. In early days the Thrall Academy at Sorum provided high school facilities for many Harding county students, while others attended high schools at Belle Fourche, Bowman, N. Dak. and other larger neighboring towns. As early as 1912 high school subjects were offered in the county, with Miss Alma Cox teaching ninth grade in a sod school located near Murchison about 20 miles southeast of Buffalo. In 1914-15 Miss Cox (Alma Schuck) taught first year high school in Buffalo. In 1915-16 she taught the eighth grade and ninth grade, as an accredited high school. In 1916 Prof. W. F. Sloan took her place as principal. Miss Cox also taught high school subjects in Camp Crook in 1912-13 under Supt. Sloan. By 1919 a new high school and grade building was built in Buffalo, and during the year of 1923-24 the Buffalo High School was recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction as a fully accredited four-year high school. Camp Crook operated a high school for many years, discontinuing shortly after the school building burned in January, 1943. Since that time only Buffalo has operated a high school, with an annual enrollment of about 75 students. The present Buffalo school, built in 1940-41, and put into service for the first time in September, 1941, serves an average grade enrollment of 125 students. Most of the rural school districts in the county offer eight grades. Scholastic standing of Harding county graduates has been generally high, with students going on to college from the Harding county school system ranking high in college scholarship.

Due to the sparsely settled condition of Harding county, education has always been a major problem, and school taxes have been quite high in the county. The trend in recent years has been toward consolidation of districts, and many families from over the county move to town in the fall to enable their children to attend school. Many of these students attend schools outside the county, in towns nearest their ranch homes.

Most of the country schools serving the county are one room, one teacher schools, with only a few students.



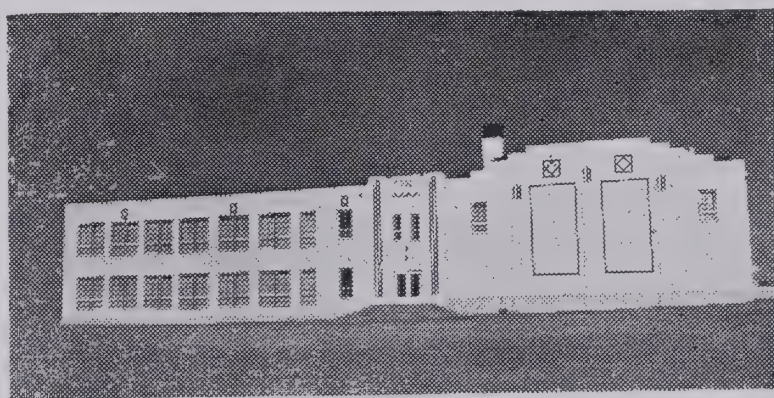
The school pictured above was built in 1911 by men of the Murchison area about 20 miles southeast of Buffalo. Men who assisted with the work included John Lei, Guy Gilbert, Raymond and Walter Cox. Alma Cox, who homesteaded in the area, taught several terms in the building, which was furnished with home made desks, a piece of sheet iron roofing for a blackboard, and small pieces of sheepskin for erasers. Pictured are: Seated, Clifford Luce, Gaylord Bush, Floyd Gilbert, Blanche Gilbert, Anna Lei, John Lei, Jr. Standing are Mrs. Joe James, Miss Alma Cox, teacher, Joe James and Bert Lei.

SHEEP CREEK SCHOOL, 1911



The Sheep Creek School, northeast of Buffalo, was one of the early schools in the central part of the county. Pictured are, left to right, front row: Leo Lyons, Francis Lyons, Vern Gibbs, Harvey Lyons, James Lyons, Palmer Brende, Myron Gibbs, Claren Gibbs, Darrel Gibbs, Edith Cairney and Ethel Cairney. In the back, are Harriet (Yarns) Swanson, and Frances (Bergstrom) Swanson. The teacher at extreme right, is Ann Makens.

BUFFALO SCHOOL



The present Buffalo Public School, opened in 1941, serves both grades and high school, and is the only high school operated in Harding county today.

SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN COUNTY

During the early homestead days, several newspapers were published within Harding county, including the Harding County Era, established in Buffalo in 1909; the Range Gazette in Camp Crook; The Buffalo Times; The Harding County Herald at Ludlow; The Ralph Republican at Ralph; The Table Mountain Beacon at Karinen, the Govert Advance at Govert and the Redig Press at Redig. With the exception of the Harding County Herald and Buffalo Times, which were consolidated to become the Buffalo Times-Herald, the Range Gazette and the Govert Advance, the early newspapers suspended publication shortly after the homesteading rush. The Govert Advance suspended publication in 1941, and the Range Gazette suspended publication in 1942, leaving only the Buffalo Times-Herald serving Harding county. Early newspapers did a thriving business in legal publications connected with homestead proofs, and for the most part closed out as the homestead boom faded. They also did their bit in promoting community and county projects and improvements, and sparked much good natured rivalry between early Harding county communities. Another early newspaper was published at Cadeyville, in the northeastern part of the county, according to old timers, but no record has been found of files of this newspaper. Files of several of the early day newspapers were destroyed, including many of the Buffalo papers.



Above is part of a page from the Buffalo Times of January, 1915, a typical early newspaper, and the forerunner of the present Buffalo Times-Herald, a consolidation of the Times and the Harding County Herald. The Herald was published at Ludlow.

NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Development of Harding county's natural resources, except for agricultural resources, has been somewhat slow, due to distance from markets. Early settlers made use of lignite coal from open pit mines which yielded lignites of varying grades, and several mines were worked extensively, including the early Hilton coal mine in the South Cave Hills, the Giannonatti mine near Ludlow and the Ellis mine in the Slim Buttes area, and a number of smaller mines of local importance. Last mine operated commercially in the county was probably the Cornella mine in the South Cave Hills, which closed operations in the early 1940's.

Timber resources represented by the forests of the Cave Hills, Slim Buttes and Short Pines divisions of Custer National Forest, or Sioux National Forest, as it was earlier known, were utilized in early days to a limited extent. The Cave Hills and Slim Buttes were withdrawn from settlement on August 14, 1903 and were designated as National Forest Reserves by Presidential proclamation on March 5, 1904. They were administered through the Forest Supervisor at Deadwood until 1906, when the Cave Hills, Slim Buttes, Short Pines, Long Pines, Ekalaka and Dakota Reserves were combined and called the Sioux National Forest with supervisor headquarters at Camp Crook. Later the Sioux National Forest was combined with the Custer National Forest with headquarters at Miles City, Mont. The national forest area in the county totals about 100,000 acres, and is utilized mainly as grazing land, with the U. S. Forest Service managing grass and timber resources in the forest from local headquarters in Camp Crook.

In 1954 uranium discoveries were made in the Slim Buttes and Cave Hills areas, and considerable mineral claim staking and development work was done. Claims numbering several thousand were staked on the anticipation of a ready market for the mineral, most of which was found to be associated with low grade lignite. However, processing difficulties held up development of a market, and although a process was worked out, no market exists for the mineral in 1959. Most extensive development work undertaken on a uranium mine in this area was done by Bill Haivala, former Buffalo man now living at Wichita, Kansas, on the Lonesome Pete claims, staked by Haivala and J. H. Josephson in the South Cave Hills. Considerable ore was shipped from this property, before operating mills refused to purchase ore from the field. Ore from the Lonesome Pete consisted of a siltstone material containing a good percentage of uranium.

Early residents of Harding county, noting similarities in surface geology here and in oil producing areas, were sure that some day Harding county would take its place among the oil producing areas of the country. Events of the past few years have justified this faith, although the sporadic search for oil and gas in Harding county was discouraging for many years.

In 1921 an oil association was formed at Buffalo for the purpose of leasing land which showed good prospects of having oil. Officers were H. J. Dehlinger, president; A. C. Meisel, Secy.-Treas.; Chas. L. Brady, William Fried and Sanford Olson, directors. The



company did not secure the necessary leases and soon ceased to exist.

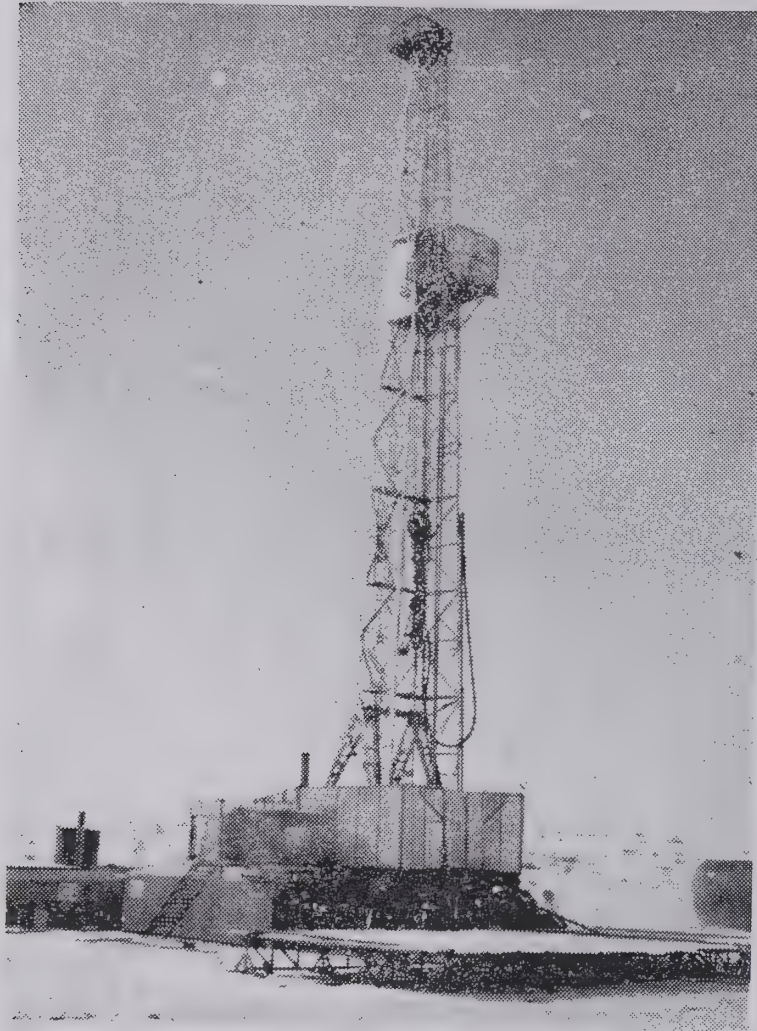
First drilling for oil in the area, done by the Absaroka Oil Co. in 1923, with a test going down below 4,178 feet before tools were lost in the hole. Paul C. Acke of Pittsburgh, Pa., furnished equipment and finance for this early test. Fred Thor of Karinen was sampler on the well. In 1928, the Bulldog Oil and Gas Co. drilled a well in Section 7, Township 22, Range 3, carrying the well to a depth of 1204 feet. This well, located on the old Joe Moore ranch, was plugged after reports of gas were publicized. Several companies were interested in the area, but drilling was not resumed in Harding county until the summer of 1931, when Miller & Kennedy drilled on the Harry Holman ranch north of Camp Crook. Gas was encountered in this well also. Again in the fall of 1939, the State Royalty Petroleum Co., made up of Lloyd E. Kennedy, Charles D. Wiman, and V. V. Miller, Moline, Ill., M. D. Miller, Baker, Mont., and W. M. Bennett, Buffalo, S. Dak., drilled a test well south of Camp Crook to a depth of 7500 feet. Shows of oil and gas were encountered, but not sufficient to be of commercial value. Other wells drilled in the Camp Crook area also failed to produce oil, and the next wave of serious oil activity began in 1953 with the drilling of the Carter-Hendriks No. 1, in Section 2, Twp. 20, Rge. 3. Shows were also found here. Drilling has been mainly concentrated since that time in the area to the northwest of Buffalo, and in November, 1953, Shell Oil Co. discovered oil in commercial quantities in their Shell State No. 1 well in Sec. 9, Twp. 21, Rge. 4. Subsequent drilling in this area, named the Buffalo Field, has produced several wells. In 1958 Mid-America Minerals, Inc. brought in their first well in the Buffalo Field, followed shortly by a successful well drilled by Clarkson-Schlaikjer in Sec. 23, Twp. 21, Rge. 3. This well, located nearly four miles out of the proven field, had the effect of greatly accelerating development in the area, until at the present time, in late August, 1959, Shell, Carter, Mid-America and Signal Drilling Co. are at work in the field, and 12 producers have now been completed in Harding county, with great promise of future development in the oil industry.

4-16-59

COAL MINING IN THE CAVE HILLS

Henry Hilton and four sons, Bill, Matt, Walter and George, shown at work in the old Hilton Coal Mine in the South Cave Hills. Several lignite mines operated from the early homestead days until the early 1940's, before oil and gas fuels largely replaced the coal as fuel in Harding county, and mines discontinued commercial operation.

RIG DRILLING IN HARDING COUNTY OIL FIELD



A familiar sight in Harding county today is the big oil well drilling rig such as pictured above, with its 120-130 foot derrick outlined against the sky. Harding county residents since earliest days have had faith in the oil prospects of the county, and rigs such as this one, owned by Signal Drilling & Exploration Co., and under direction of "Buck" Lain as toolpusher, are justifying that faith.

COUNTY OFFICIALS — 1909-1959

Among the most influential citizens of Harding county who have been largely responsible for the policy of progress pursued during the 50 years of the county's existence are the elected and appointed officials, several of whom have devoted many years of service to their county. Following is the list of these officials:

Special Election Jan. 26, 1909—

Auditor, Fred W. Wilson; Treasurer, Al. Clarkson; Register of Deeds, J. S. Whitney; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; County Judge, Geo. H. Jackson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; Sheriff, Chas. N. Davis; Supt of Schools, Anna J. Sparks; County Assessor, T. G. Ames; County Commissioners, L. A. deBelloy, Fred Doten and Fred R. Howard.

Election Nov. 10, 1910—

Auditor, Fred W. Wilson; Treasurer, F. F. Fuller; Sheriff, Chas. N. Davis; Register of Deeds, J. S. Whitney; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; Supt. of Schools, Anna J. Sparks (resigned July, 1912, M. Anne Makins appointed); State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Geo. H. Jackson; County Surveyor, W. N. Schroeder; Assessor, Joe Moore; Coroner, R. S. Hedges; Co. Comm. 1st. Dist., L. A. deBelloy (resigned Jan. 1913, Willard Padden appointed); Co. Comm. 2nd Dist., G. W. Cairney; Co. Comm. 3rd Dist., F. R. Howard.

Election Nov. 5, 1912—

Treasurer, F. F. Fuller; Auditor, Wm. R. Gardner; Sheriff, Fred Doten; Reg. of Deeds, Fred W. Wilson; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; State's Attorney, Geo. H. Jackson; Supt. of Schools, Alice Goggins; County Judge, J. S. Whitney; County Surveyor, C. Morarty; Coroner, D. D. Raber; Assessor, Joe Moore; Co. Comm. 2nd. Dist., A. J. Norton; Co. Comm. 4th Dist., William F. Schroeder; Co. Comm. 5th Dist., H. W. Clarkson.

Election Nov. 3, 1914—

Treas., Carl M. Cornell; Auditor, W. R. Gardner; Sheriff, Fred Doten; Reg. of Deeds, Fred W. Wilson; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; Supt. of Schools, Alice Goggins; State's Atty., W. M. Bennett; County Judge, J. S. Whitney; Assessor, Joseph A. Moore; County Coroner, D. D. Raber; Co. Comm. Dist. 1, Sol Catron; Co. Comm. Dist. 3, Olof M. Peterson; Co. Comm. Dist. 5, L. L. Painter (resigned April 1916, D. M. Tarter appointed).

Election Nov. 7, 1916—

Treasurer, Geo. O. Sletten; Auditor, A. C. Meisel; Sheriff, Theodore Hermanson; Reg. of Deeds, W. R. Gardner; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; Supt. of Schools, Minnie E. Stegner; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; Coroner, D. D. Raber; Assessor, Herbert R. Dean; Co. Comm. Dist. 2, R. E. Willson; Co. Comm. Dist. 4, Louis R. Jones; Co. Comm. Dist. 5, E. A. Cox.

Election Nov. 5, 1918—

Treasurer, Geo. O. Sletten; Auditor, A. C. Meisel; Sheriff, H. J. Dehlinger; Register of Deeds, W. R. Gardner; Clerk of Courts, M. A. Keene; Supt. of Schools, Eudora V. Stegner; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Assessor, Geo. M. Elling; Co. Comm. Dist. 1, Sol Catron; Co. Comm. Dist. 3, Olaf Torkelson; Co. Comm. Dist. 5, John A. Nelson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett, appointed April, 1919.

Election Nov. 2, 1920—

Treasurer, Hans Sacrison; Auditor, W. R. Gardner; Sheriff, H. J. Dehlinger; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Atty., W. M. Bennett; Co. Comm., Dist. 2, Ralph E. Willson; Co. Comm. Dist. 4., John W. Todd; Reg. of Deeds, A. C. Meisel; Supt. of Schools, Eudora V. Stegner was appointed May, 1921; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady.

Election November, 1922—

Auditor, W. R. Gardner; Treasurer, Hans Sacrison; Reg. of Deeds, J. D. Hollister; Sheriff, W. C. Flathers; Supt. of Schools, Eudora V. Stegner; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Carl M. Cornell; Assessor, John Rufsvold; Commissioners, C. P. Johnson, E. E. Junek, Fred R. Howard, Geo. M. Elling, J. B. Clarkson. (In March, 1924, Jerry Gleason took office as Sheriff.)

Election November, 1924—

Auditor, Hans Sacrison; Treasurer, R. W. Jacobi; Reg. of Deeds, J. D. Hollister; Sheriff, Jerry Gleason; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Atty., Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Carl M. Cornell; Assessor, John Rufsvold; Commissioners, J. F. Benson, E. E. Junek, Fred R. Howard, Geo. M. Elling and J. B. Clarkson.

Election November, 1926—

Auditor, Hans Sacrison; Treasurer, R. W. Jacobi; Reg. of Deeds, Rayford Robins; Sheriff, Jerry Gleason; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis (Ione Laisy took office June 30, 1927); Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Highway Supt., Carl M. Cornell; Assessor, John Rufsvold; Commissioners, Willard B. Padden, E. E. Junek, Fred R. Howard, Geo. M. Elling, J. B. Clarkson.

Election November, 1928—

Auditor, Ralph W. Jacobi; Treasurer, John A. Rufsvold; Reg. of Deeds, Rayford Robins; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Ione Laisy; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett (until June 13, 1930, when L. A. Conser took the office; Highway Supt. Carl M. Cornell; Assessor, Wm. D. Mack; Commissioners, Willard B. Padden, E. E. Junek, Fred R. Howard, Geo. M. Elling, J. B. Clarkson.

Election November, 1930—

Auditor, Ralph W. Jacobi; Treasurer, John A. Rufsvold; Reg. of Deeds, W. C. Whitney; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Ione M. Laisy (until Dec. 1931, when Cordelia Shevling took the office); Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, L. A. Conser; Highway Supt., Carl M. Cornell; Assessor, Wm. D. Mack; Commissioners, E. E. Junek, Geo. M. Elling, T. G. Ames, W. B. Padden, Dan Tarter.

Election November, 1933—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, W. C. Whitney; Sheriff, J. B. Seppala; Supt. of Schools, Cordelia Shevling; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, L. A. Conser; Highway Supt., Emmett Griggs; Assessor, Wm. D. Mack; Commissioners, Geo. M. El-

ling, T. G. Ames, Dan Tarter, W. B. Padden, F. M. Gilbert; Coroner, Dr. L. L. Sowles.

November, 1934 Election—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, John D. Hollister; Sheriff, J. B. Seppala; Supt. of Schools, Alice Dahl (took office in June, 1935); Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Highway Supt., Emmett Griggs; Assessor, Wm. D. Mack; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, R. W. Korsmo, Geo. M. Elling, W. B. Padden; Coroner, Dr. L. L. Sowles.

November 1936 Election—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson; Reg. of Deeds, John D. Hollister; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Alice Dahl; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Emmett Griggs; Assessor, Wm. D. Mack; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, R. W. Korsmo, H. L. Coffield, W. B. Padden.

Election November, 1938—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson; Reg. of Deeds, W. C. Whitney; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Alice Dahl; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Emmett Griggs; Assessor, George Hafner; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, R. W. Korsmo, H. L. Coffield, W. B. Padden.

Election November, 1940—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, M. E. Whitney; Sheriff, J. H. Stenseth; Supt. of Schools, Alice Dahl; Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Assessor, Geo. Hafner; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Geo. M. Elling, Glen R. Buckley, R. W. Korsmo, W. B. Padden. In 1941 L. C. Woodward took over office of Supt. of Schools.

Election November, 1942—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, Wm. D. Mack; Sheriff, J. H. Stenseth; Supt. of Schools, Irene Stich (term finished by Lester Hafner); Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Assessor, Geo. M. Hafner; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, John Lerseth, A. L. Reitz, H. L. Coffield.

Election November, 1944—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson; Reg. of Deeds, Wm. Mack; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis (took office in June); Clerk of Courts, Fred W. Wilson; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Assessor, Geo. M. Hafner; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, John Lerseth, A. L. Reitz, Geo. Elling.

Election November 1946—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson; Reg. of Deeds, Loretta Anderson; Sheriff, W. A. Ritchie; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, M. E. Whitney; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Jas. A. Maney appointed in July, 1946; Assessor, Geo. M. Hafner; Com-

missioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, John Lerseth, A. L. Reitz, Geo. Elling.

Election November, 1948—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, Loretta Anderson Mort; Sheriff, Harold Chase (W. A. Ritchie completed Chase's term after his resignation); Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, M. E. Whitney; State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Highway Supt., Jas. A. Maney; Assessor, Geo. Hafner (Tracy A. Norton took office in 1949); Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, John Lerseth, A. L. Reitz, Geo. M. Elling.

Election November, 1950—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, Alma J. Mort; Sheriff, Santi Haivala; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, M. E. Whitney (Sylvia L. Curliss completed Mrs. Whitney's term after her death in August, 1951); State's Attorney, W. M. Bennett; County Judge, Chas. L. Brady; Highway Supt., James A. Maney; Assessor, Tracy A. Norton; Commissioners, F. M. Gilbert, Glen R. Buckley, James O. Davis, A. L. Reitz, Geo. M. Elling.

Election November, 1952—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson, Reg. of Deeds, Jess Anderson; Sheriff, Santi Haivala; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, Sylvia L. Curliss; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Jas. A. Maney; Assessor, Tracy A. Norton; Commissioners, James O. Davis, A. L. Reitz, Howard Millett, Glen R. Buckley, F. M. Gilbert. (Lloyd Gilbert took the place of F. M. Gilbert in December, 1953, following F. M. Gilbert's death.)

Election November, 1954—

Auditor, Lucy A. Lahti; Treasurer, C. C. Gullickson; Reg. of Deeds, Jess Anderson; Sheriff, Gus Haivala; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, Sylvia L. Curliss; State's Attorney, Donn Bennett; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt. Jas. A. Maney; Assessor, Tracy A. Norton; Commissioners, James O. Davis, A. L. Reitz, Howard Millett, Glen R. Buckley, Lloyd Gilbert.

Election November, 1956—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, Flora I. Anderson; Sheriff, Gus Haivala; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, Sylvia L. Curliss; State's Attorney, Donn Bennett; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Harold Carlson; Director of Assessments, Cliff Hathaway; Commissioners, James O. Davis, A. L. Reitz, Howard Millett, Glen R. Buckley, Lloyd Gilbert.

Election November, 1958—

Auditor, C. C. Gullickson; Treasurer, Lucy A. Lahti; Reg. of Deeds, Flora I. Anderson; Sheriff, Gus Haivala; Supt. of Schools, Mrs. Paul L. Ellis; Clerk of Courts, Sylvia L. Curliss; State's Attorney, Chas. L. Brady; County Judge, W. M. Bennett; Highway Supt., Harold Carlson; Director of Equalization, Cliff Hathaway; Commissioners, James O. Davis, A. L. Reitz, Howard Millett, Glen R. Buckley, Lloyd Gilbert.

STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

In 1911 the state legislature passed an apportionment law, under which Harding county was allowed to send one representative to the state House of Representatives. By the same law, Harding and Perkins county were allowed one Senator. Representing the area in Pierre from that time were:

Representative—1913—C. O. Stokes of Harding
Senator—1913—Ray J. Murphy of Lemmon.
Representative—1915—W. A. Day of Buffalo.
Senator—1915—John C. Stoner of Lemmon.
Representative—1917—Albert Sherrill of Camp Crook.
Senator—1917—G. G. Glendinning of Ludlow.
Representative—1919—Oscar Holmgren of Penville.
Senator—1919—F. A. Finch of Lemmon.
Representative—1921—Frank M. Gilbert, Buffalo.
Senator—1921—George O. Sletten, Buffalo.
Representative—1923—Frank M. Gilbert, Buffalo.
Senator—1923—George O. Sletten, Buffalo.
Representative—1925—Frank M. Gilbert, Buffalo.
Senator—1925—D. D. Perkins, Bison.
Representative—1927—Jas. F. Benson, Harding.
Senator—1927—D. R. Perkins, Bison.
Representative—1929—Jas. F. Benson, Redig.
Senator—1929—Geo. O. Sletten, Buffalo.
Representative—1931—J. B. Clarkson, Buffalo.
Senator—1931—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Representative—1933—W. B. Willard, Strool.
Senator—1933—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Representative—1935—W. B. Willard, Strool.
Senator—1935—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Representative—1937—Geo. M. Elling, Reva.
Senator—1937—Marion Barrett, White Butte.

Beginning with the session of 1939, Harding and Butte counties comprised one district, with one senator and one representative from the combined counties.

Representative—1939—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1939—L. M. Simons, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1941—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1941—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1943—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1943—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1945—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1945—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1947—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1947—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1949—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1949—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1951—W. R. Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1951—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1953—Edgar Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1953—W. F. Thomas, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1955—Edgar Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1955—L. A. Johnson, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1957—Edgar Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1957—F. B. Roberts, Belle Fourche.
Representative—1959—Edgar Gardner, Buffalo.
Senator—1959—F. B. Roberts, Belle Fourche.

HARDING COUNTY HAD FINE RECORD IN THREE WARS

There are many areas in the history of Harding county which cannot be properly covered in a story of this scope, since generalization would tend to detract from the magnitude of the part played by folks from the area. Therefore, it will not be attempted at this time to go deeply into the participation of Harding county's men and women in the three major wars which have occurred during the lifetime of the county. It may be said however, that young men, and women, of Harding county, distinguished themselves in World War I, World War II and the Korean conflict, with hardly a family in the county which did not contribute a member or members of the military services. Harding county had its full share of men in the prime of their life who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country.

Following each major conflict, Harding county's ex-service-men have returned to become leaders in the county, taking their places in the forefront of their chosen field of endeavor. Through the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations and their auxiliaries, Harding county veterans are found in the lead of all important community projects in the area.

It is the intention of the compilers of this story to publish a booklet covering as completely as possible the participation of Harding county in these major conflicts. Considerable research has already been done in this regard during the past year and the people of Harding county may well be proud of the men from this area who have worn their country's uniform.

Veterans organizations in Harding county annually sponsor Americanism and citizenship projects to impress upon the young folks of the county the importance of recognizing or working toward the goals of good citizenship and promoting a love and appreciation of the ideals of American freedom.

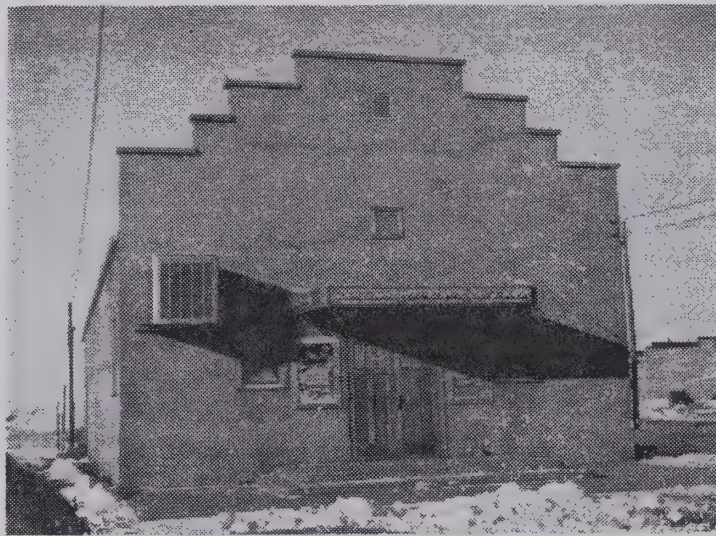
On Memorial Day, 1956, a flag staff and memorial plaque in the courthouse yard was dedicated in honor of all veterans of Harding county.

Frank R. Friedbauer Post No. 6228, named for Frank R. Friedbauer, Harding county soldier who gave his life in World War II, in conjunction with other posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, annually sponsors a magazine sales drive in the county, with proceeds used to provide hospital and first aid equipment for use by the communities.

During the three major wars in which Harding county men and women participated, their brothers and sisters and parents who remained at home took an active part in the war effort through participation in the Red Cross, USO and other organizations designed to back up the war effort. Most ranches and businesses in Harding county were operated by skeleton forces in order to release men for the more important business of defending their country. During World War I Harding county's record in raising money for Liberty Loan drives was excellent, while the county consistently topped its quota during World War II and the Korean Conflict's finance drives through purchase of war bonds.



As one of Lamnison Post No. 147 American Legion's annual citizenship programs, an annual "Government Day" is sponsored, whereby students of the high school government classes take over operation of county offices for a day. Pictured here are 1957 Government Day officials Annette Tennant and Sharon Ekberg handling the duties of the County Treasurer's office. Donn Bennett and Frank Clark, American Legion officers, are the customers.



Veterans organizations have taken the lead in working for wholesome recreation for young folks in the area. Shortly after the close of World War II, the local American Legion post, with the aid of Buffalo businessmen, erected this hall to be used as a community theatre and public meeting place. The new building replaced the old Legion Hall operated for many years by the Legion on Buffalo's Main Street. The old building, built in Buffalo's early days as a creamery, was disposed of and is now in use as a warehouse by Peterson Hardware Co.

MANY POSTOFFICES AND SMALL COMMUNITIES FLOURISHED IN COUNTY'S EARLY DAYS

During the early years of Harding county, especially after the influx of homesteaders from 1907 until about 1916, many small communities with postoffices and country stores served the area.

As the population of the county increased and people from all walks arrived and took up their 160 acres, the volume of mail became such that each community desired its own postoffice. As a rule, these postoffices were small and occupied a room in a home or small store where stocks of general merchandise were carried. Complete records of these postoffices have not been available, but a list here presented includes most of the early day postoffices.

A general requirement in establishment of a postoffice was to establish a need and community desire for the service by carrying the mail to the proposed location from another existing postoffice for at least a year, and until a Postoffice Department inspector would make his call at the proposed office and approve the service. Thus many of the early residents of Harding county did their "stint" at carrying the U. S. Mail.

In later years, after the departure of many of the homesteaders, improvement of country roads and general use of the automobile, the majority of these postoffices were closed. Very few of the country stores are now in operation.

The list of early day postoffices included:

Amburn	Gustave
Ashcroft	Harding
Bratsburg	Karinen
Buffalo	Ladner
Bullock	Line
Cammack	Ludlow
Camp Crook	Murchison
Cox	Penville
Elder	Plateau
Erickson	Ralph
Fladmoe	Redig
Gallup	Reva
Gill	Slim Buttes
Glenlevit	Willett
Govert	

As the county developed, the history of various localities became more centralized around community centers, while at the same time each community's development tied in with the general history of the area. For this reason, the history of several communities representative of early day Harding county will be discussed, while other communities will not be covered as completely in this book. Further research is necessary in many areas before going deeply into local development. Some of this local history has been hard to develop, while enthusiastic interest in other communities has brought to light a wealth of information.

FIRST SETTLEMENT WAS IN PRESENT HARDING COMMUNITY

The present community of Harding, originally known as Nashville, was one of the very earliest settlements in what is now Harding county, and we are indebted to the Valley Creek School pupils and teacher, Mrs. Bernard Penn, who assembled the following historical summary of the years since the community was first settled, beginning in 1881.

There are very few of the pioneer people living today who were among the first settlers in Harding community. Some of the old timers who are still living are Ethel Jacobs, Neola Brewer, Lulu Tennant, Mabel Gardner, Ellen Penn and Maude Penn. Ellen and Maude Penn still live in the community. Mrs. Jacobs and Mrs. Gardner make their homes in Belle Fourche. Neola Brewer makes her home in Camp Crook and Lulu Tennant lives in Marmarth.

Others who were part of this community in early years were Hattie Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cornell and Louise Gilbert, all of whom now live in Buffalo. Esther (Horton) Lewis, who resides in Deadwood and Wesley Horton, who resides at Govert, were also residents here in early days.

From all obtainable information, the first white man to move in here and make a permanent home was David Willett. He came here from Benton, Iowa in 1881 as a fur trapper. He came with



DAVID WILLETT RESIDENCE STILL STANDS

Pictured above is the David Willett residence, believed to be the oldest residence in Harding county, as it appeared in 1958. The log building was built about 1881 by David Willett, the first permanent resident of the Harding community. Standing before the building are Lulu Tennant, Marmarth, N. Dak., and Neola Brewer, Camp Crook, only surviving members of the David Willett family. A picture of the Willett family and the house as it originally appeared is printed earlier in this book.

the Butcher Bros. who were also trappers. Part of the old log building which he built at that time is still standing, having weathered the storms for about 78 years.

Harley Shevling came here about the year 1883. He sent for his mother and Lew who made a permanent home here. Lew was a forest ranger for all forested areas in Harding county at one time. Harlie Shevling claims to have killed the last buffalo in this area.

The Nash family moved to this community about the year 1884. They established a store and postoffice at what was known then as Nashville. From all obtainable knowledge the Nashville postoffice was the first postoffice in Harding county. A man by the name of White was postmaster. The Nashville store building was built by Browning and Wringrose in 1885.

In 1886 O. O. Stokes came here from Iowa. He bought the store equipment from Nash and set up a general store at Harding which was located 2 miles east and 1 mile south of Nashville. A general store still remains at Harding but has changed hands several times. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Young.

In the spring of 1893 the post-office was moved from Nashville to its present location at Harding. Flo Stokes, daughter of O. O. Stokes, was the first postmistress. Her sister, Del, later Mrs. Henry McCoid, was her assistant.

Some of the other families who were early settlers in this community were: John Baxter Cooper, Charley Gilbert, Park Gilbert, Matt Ward, Ostrander, Clanton, Whitney, Whitcomb, Carter, Murray, Cook, Jackson, Waddell, Karney Bros., and McNabbs.

Axel Cranse was a blacksmith here in early days. His father was a cobbler, making shoes, harness, and doing general repair and cobbler work.

There was a circuit-minister who came here when the community was first being settled. A Rev. Robert Gowdie was a Presbyterian minister who served as pastor of this community for some time. He held services in a log school house.

In 1893 a new church building was begun. Rev. J. M. Gardner was the founder of this church. This same Rev. Gardner has a granddaughter, Alma Cooper, living in our community now. Her granddaughter, Laurel, great-great granddaughter of Rev. Gardner is now a pupil in the school where this manuscript is being written.

Phil Rothman built the church. The church was finished in 1895. The cornerstone was laid by Albert Penn and John E. Gardner. Mr. Rothman also built a three-room house across the road from the church, a residence for the minister and his wife.

Rev. Gardner was loved by all who knew him. Mrs. Gardner traveled with her husband for miles around as he delivered his message to other communities.

A Woodman Hall was built at Harding in 1901. This was the first community hall in Harding county. This hall is still in use. From time to time the community has made repairs on the hall. It is now a community hall, and indeed a center of community activ-

ities.

A large two-story warehouse was built at Harding about the year 1902. It is still used by the Harding merchants.

A hotel was at Harding, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Sankey. In the early days the hotel was filled to capacity. Many freighters, cowboys, and other travelers ate meals and spent the night at the Harding Hotel.

Seven mail routes went out from the Harding Postoffice at one time. There was a daily mail line from Belle Fourche and on to Camp Crook in early days. At present Harding has daily mail service coming from Buffalo via Camp Crook and returning to Buffalo the same day.

Harding was indeed a busy place. People came from miles around to get their mail and trade at the Harding Store. The little store grew until it became quite a business place.

Henry McCoid came here in 1896 from Sturgis. He was taken in as O. O. Stokes' business partner in the store enterprise. Later he married Del Stokes, daughter of O. O. Stokes. He was partner in the store with Stokes until Mr. Stokes' death. From that time on, Mr. McCoid and his wife, Del, handled the store alone until Henry died in 1944.

In the year 1886 one of the worst blizzards in the history of South Dakota left many animals buried beneath the snow. Many more head of livestock perished before the winter was over. Most houses and barns were completely covered with snow. Fuel and water were brought into the houses through holes cut in the roofs. If stock were in the barn, and if feed were available, they were fed by crawling in and out a hole cut in the top of the barn. Most of the stock perished. Hardships were suffered by humans and animals.

About the year 1886, maybe a year or so later, the people here were warned that the Indians were on the warpath and that an Indian attack could be expected. Hastily the neighbors made plans to build a fort for protection. They chose a central location and hastily improvised a log fort. The men gathered supplies of food, guns and ammunition, expecting a siege. The Indians never showed up, fortunately. Part of the log barricade could be seen years later near the Lewis home where it was built.

Indians came through this country often. It seemed to be on a line the Indians traveled when moving from one camp to another. The Indians would generally cause little trouble. They asked at homes for food, butter and sugar especially. Most housewives were happy to give them the food they asked for so the Indians would be on their way. Unlucky was the housewife who was not home when they called. If the Indians found nobody home, they ransacked the house, taking whatever they found that appealed to them. Some families were treated to fresh game which the Indians often traded for food they didn't have.

Ellen Penn told us about an Indian who came to her home. He asked for butter which she had stored in a root cellar away from the house. Her husband, George Penn, was not at home. She left

her small son, Earl, to watch the Indian while she made a hasty trip to the cellar. She returned to find a puering Indian with a small boy at his heels asking, "What do you think you're doing looking in these things?" The Indian hastily and shamefaced, took the offered food and departed.

Ellen Penn owns a lovely Indian blanket which her husband, George, bought from an Indian who was passing through. An old Indian squaw had the blanket around her shoulders. When George made it known that he wanted to buy the blanket, the Indian man took it off his wife's shoulders and sold it to George, although it was very apparent the Indian woman did not want him to sell it. This blanket is still in use and aside from a small mend or two in it, is in very good condition. The weaving is indeed a wonderful piece of work!

The first woman buried in the Harding cemetery died a very untimely death. This was Reba Willett. She came here as Dave Willett's bride in 1885. Five weeks after her fourth child was born, in 1891, Mrs. Willett fell and hurt herself. There was no doctor here then, the closest doctor was at Minnesela, a small town south-east of Belle Fourche. A man was sent on horseback to bring a doctor. However, the woman died before the doctor could reach her. The doctor had come as far as old Macey when another rider met him and told him he was no longer needed. Before Mrs. Willett passed away she told her children good-bye. She took her five weeks old baby, who had not yet been named, and gave her own name to the baby. She remarked that she would need the name no longer so she would give her name to the baby girl.

A Doctor Tracy came here after this time. He is credited with saving the life of Esther Horton (now Mrs. Scott Lewis). She had a foot cut practically off in an accident with a mower. Dr. Tracy sewed the foot back on, saving not only her life but her foot as well.

People in early days enjoyed dances in the homes and school houses before there were any dance halls. The music was usually furnished by a fiddler. At most social gatherings, a caller would generally be present. When the fiddler began playing, the caller would call a square dance. Soon as many dancers as the room would allow would be following the caller's instructions.

Life was not easy for the early people. Women, as well as men, must be brave and have faith in the future to withstand all the hardships that was their lot to bear.

Most of the men ran a few cattle or were hired as cowboys by one of the big cow outfits. Money was scarce. Men trapped, hunted, or did any work they could find to make a few extra dollars.

Dave Willett told about an exciting experience he had on a hunting trip. Dave and the Butcher Bros. had gone over into Montana to hunt. They had set up a temporary camp at the Walker place.

This place was located near Stoneville, Montana (now Alzada). At Stoneville there was a saloon. The saloon-keeper also

handled staple groceries since grocery stores were few and far between.

One evening Dave decided to ride into Stoneville after a few groceries. As he was passing through a small draw near the saloon, he heard much shooting and a general din coming from the saloon. Thinking the cowboys were having a shooting scrape, he decided to lay low until the shooting was over. As he lay in the brush he saw a man come dashing through the draw headed for Walker's place.

When the shooting had subsided he went on to the saloon. He found the shooting had been caused, not by cowboys as he had thought, but by officers trying to catch some cowboys who had stolen some Indian ponies. Willett had a difficult time convincing the officers that he was in no way involved with the horse-stealing.

When he had made his purchases and was ready to return to his camp the officers said they would go along with him. They led a pony along and tied the pony between a hog house and chicken coop. They then told Willett to go into the house and tell the boy his horse was outside. He found the boy was the same young man he had seen running through the draw. He told the boy, as he had been instructed to do, that his horse was tied outside.

The boy, believing he had a chance to escape, went out to get his horse. As he stooped to crawl under a fence, the officers opened fire on the young man. They riddled him with bullets. Another cowboy had hit the sod. Willett felt very bad, as he hated to be a party to such a deceitful way of getting the boy to come outside, and felt he was partly to blame for the boy's death.

Although the town of Harding has not flourished in recent years as it did in the early nineteen-hundreds, the people of Harding still have a community to be proud of. The town itself is small. It has a store, postoffice, warehouse, community hall, church and five residences. The church is a very new building of which the people in the community have every right to be proud. The new church was made possible by the united efforts of all the people in the community plus an untiring pastor and his wife, Rev. L. A. Johnson and Bertha, without whose prayers, encouragement, and faith the church would never have become a reality.

In the belfry of the new church hangs a large church bell to call the people to worship. The history of the bell is very interesting. Rev. Gardner, the founder of the first church at Nashville, persuaded one hundred cowboys to give a dollar apiece to buy a bell for the new church. The bell was ordered from some place in Pennsylvania. On the bell is inscribed the word "Cowboy." This bell hung in the old church building for about fifty-eight years. When the new church was finished the bell was hung in the belfry of the new church. What a fitting tribute to the pioneer people who started our community!

Material for the above article was gathered by the Valley Creek School with the help of Ellen Penn, Vernon McCoid, Neola Brewer, Mabel Gardner, Ethel Jacobs, and Maude Penn.

EARLY DAY RECOLLECTIONS

(By Mrs. Carl Cornell)

My father, E. P. Whitcomb, came to Dakota Territory in 1879. He was timber boss at the Homestake mines in Lead, S. Dak. He with a Mr. Box brought a sawmill out and located it in the Long Pine Hills. The next spring, the family, my mother and two brothers, Ralph and Homer, joined him. Father filed on a homestead near the West Short Pine Hills in Burdick county, now Harding county. While the house was being built, (a two room log structure) Mother made a home for her family in a tent. Our Postmistress, Mrs. White, came calling one windy day and to her inquiry as to show she liked the country Mother replied, "I don't like it and I'm not staying." She lived on that homestead the rest of her life. Death came in 1902.

I was the fifth of six children. My youngest brother Edwin was born in May, 1890. That is the first that I can remember. During the summer there was an Indian scare. Mother with two small children was alone on the place when G. W. Nash, one of our few neighbors, came to get us to go to the fort as Sitting Bull was on the warpath. The fort was a cellar dug in the hill at the Lewis ranch. Entrance was through the kitchen. This house still stands and was lived in by Lon Lewis until a few years ago. It didn't take Mother long to get us ready. Taking the ammunition, we hurried to the Lewis place where all the neighbors were gathered. The women and children stayed in the cellar, with the men on guard in the front of the house. My father and the Postmistress, Mrs. White, had started to Minnesota on business. A runner overtook them and told them of the Indians coming, so they turned around and came back to the fort. The people at the fort, hearing wagon and horses, thought Sitting Bull was getting close. Imagine, if you can, the relief when my father and Mrs. White drove in. Sitting Bull got word that the white settlers were ready for him and the raid never materialized.

During the winter of 1890 sickness took its toll in our neighborhood. Katherine and Esther Stokes died of diphtheria. In the Camp Crook area Catrons lost one or two children. Frank Allens lost a son Bruce. Rev. Robert Gowdy, Presbyterian minister and medical missionary, with his sister Elizabeth, (later Mrs. David Willett) lived up to the name of missionaries. That winter they traveled from their little log house just over the hill north from the present Harding store around the country to all who were ill. What a relief to the parents of the sufferers when they came, bringing words of comfort and simple remedies. A number of children lived to grow up because of their care.

Just north of the Lewis home was a log store building owned by Browning and Wringrose. According to information taken from John O. Bye's book it was established about 1880. I remember my first Christmas tree in that store. It was decorated with strung popcorn and apples. Lanterns hung from the rafters. I remember there was quite a crowd present, all visiting and enjoying a rare get-together.

School was in a small log building just west of where the present school house now stands. This building served for church services. The men would take the wagon seats in, also their guns.

Indians still had a habit of appearing unexpectedly.

Early day ministers were Rev. Geo. Perry, a sort of circuit rider sent by the Presbyterians; Rev. Tutty, a Methodist minister, who had a claim south of Harding. Rev. Gowdy, also Presbyterian, came and stayed for a time. Rev. J. M. Gardner came about 1893. The Methodist church at Nashville was built by Phil Rothman, a hired carpenter, with men in the community contributing work. Rev. Gardner sat up nights at the church keeping fire so that the plaster dried without freezing. Rev. Gardner was a wonderful minister. He gained the respect and love of all who knew him. He and Mrs. Gardner were dedicated workers with the young people, and we had some of our best times at their home.

A Presbyterian, Rev. J. A. McNab located the ranch and built the house now owned by Earl Penn. Another minister, Rev. Baskerville, lived on Valley Creek. He held services for the Presbyterians in the afternoons. So on Sunday we would attend Methodist Sunday School and church in the forenoon and Presbyterian services in the afternoon.

Mr. John S. Whitney taught the first school, in the log school house. My brother Homer, Jim White, the Vines girls and others that I don't recall attended. Effie Andrey was the last to teach in the log school house. A new building was built ready for school to open in 1894. Lucy Lytten (now Mrs. Peterson of Belle Fourche) was the teacher. Jay Pyles, Laura Parrish (later Mrs. J. A. McNab) taught summer terms. Miss Lora B. Foster, Miss Stevens (later Mrs. Joe Lewis), Miss Florence Peltz (later Mrs. Chas. Wilson—he was known as Tug.); Miss McPherson (later Mrs. Lou Shevling); Mayme Clay (later Mrs. Fred Cacheline,) were teachers. This was my last year at the country school. Before the county was organized teachers were paid by funds raised giving dances, box suppers, or the women would come and cook a hot meal to serve at midnight. Teachers were boarded for ten dollars a month. They walked to school and performed janitor duties. All had a part in the early history of Harding county.

Ice cream socials, literary debates and dances were the occasions for get-togethers. They danced from dark to sun-up to the merry music of the Lewis boys' violins. Maude Tamerlin would sometimes join in with a mouth organ. Fourth of July celebrations were an important event, usually last two days.

About 1904 a store was built just west of the church in old Nashville. A Mr. Wilson brought in a stock of goods and operated the store for about two years. He built a large frame house to the east of the church. This was later moved to the Mrs. Sankey place.

When the post office at Nashville was moved to its present location at Harding, with Florence Stokes as Postmistress, O. O. Stokes bought out Mr. Wilson's stock of goods and moved it to Harding. Thus ended the pioneer efforts at Nashville, named for our first blacksmith, G. W. Nash.

My brother Ralph and Frank Gilbert went hunting one nice day in January, 1888. A sudden blizzard overtook them. Lucky for them they were near an abandoned trapper's cabin, which furnished them shelter from the storm. After the storm was over their

fathers came hunting them. They were near Pine Springs in the Jumpoff area.

My father and I moved to Camp Crook in 1912, built a small house and father built a garage and hall. This was after the fire that destroyed the Chuning Hall. It was quite a building for those days of silent movies. They were shown twice a week, with roller skating and dancing also held in the hall.

A Dr. Wilder served the community after Rev. Gowdy left. He lived in Camp Crook. Dr. Sherrill came about 1900 and faithfully served the Harding county and eastern Montana area for many years. He operated a hospital in Camp Crook and will be remembered as an able surgeon. Before the advent of cars he made many miles with a driver by horse and buggy, often breaking brones on the trip.

In spite of the hardships that went with settling a new country we had good times. We salute the brave men and women who were the early day settlers of Harding county.

EARLY WELL DRILLING RIG AT HARDING



Pictured above are "80-Acre" Johnson, Henry Carlson and Art Cooper operating a horse-powered well drilling rig in the Harding community in Harding county's early homestead days.

MRS. MABEL GARDNER'S MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS IN THE HARDING COMMUNITY

Mabel Gardner, long time resident of the Harding community who now makes her home in Belle Fourche, adds the following information to the story of Harding county's first permanent settlement:

Reading the articles of early Harding county history brings to my mind that my husband, John Gardner, was among the old timers. John came to the Harding vicinity in the year 1891 and filed on the 160 acres of land across from the church that was being erected by his father, Rev. James Madison Gardner. Father and Mother Gardner and their son John were then living in the log house on this 160 acres, but John was also erecting his new home which was a three room frame house, for him and his parents to reside in. Phil Rothman was the carpenter and with the help of the minister, his son John and many others who volunteered work, helped to build the Nashville Methodist church.

In October, 1894, my mother, Mrs. John Sankey, and four of my brothers, Elmer, Roy, Charlie and Harry, also one sister, Mona, who was three months old, came from Walnut, Iowa, and settled three miles above Camp Crook on the Little Missouri River. This place Joe Paleyode later bought from my father John Sankey as he had come to be with his family in March, 1895. Later my older sister and husband Glenn Hardesty arrived to join the family. I came in April, 1895, and lived with my uncle Matt Ward and my grandmother Mary Jane Loomer on her place that is called Ash Coulee.

On July 1, 1896 my name was changed from Mabel Sankey to Mrs. John E. Gardner, as John and I were married on that date. We had three children, Alma, Herbert and John Leroy, come to bless our home. Our little Leroy passed on at the age of 21 months.

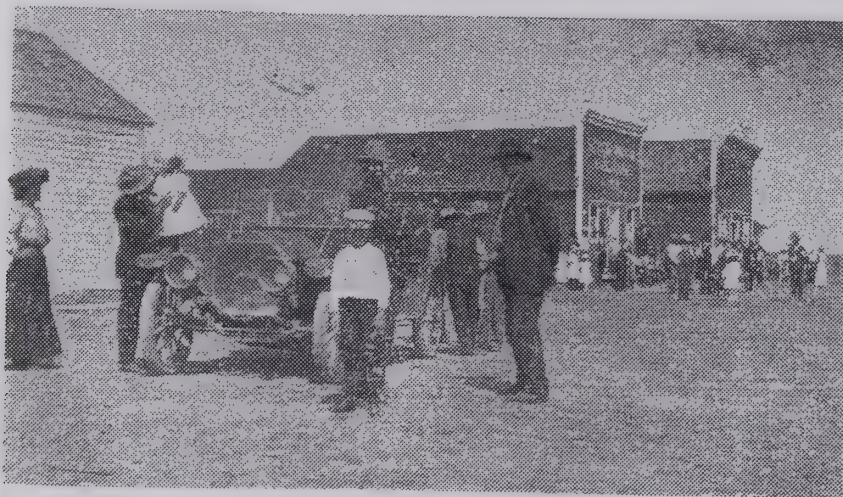
John freighted for the John Wilson store for a time, but later on, when the postoffice and store was in what is now Harding, he freighted by contract for the Stokes & McCoid firm for a number of years. Many other old timers also went on freighting trips. Jack Jacobs and Charley Livingston were two men I can recall to mind.

No doubt many old timers should be mentioned, but it is very hard to recall each and every one, but I thought my husband, John E. Gardner, should be mentioned as one of the old timers as he was one who went through hardships that some didn't as when he would be stuck in the gumbo for three weeks and could not turn a wheel when he was bringing in food, machinery and even caskets—too many things to speak of—that were needed by one and all.

He passed on in 1947, but many who are left to tell the story know what he had undergone in the way of hardship and suffering while away from home and family on his regular freighting trips. I could tell of many experiences he and others who might be with him had to undergo. Although I live in Belle Fourche my memories are still with the Harding county people and the "old pioneers", and now I want to say a word of praise for the younger generation as to what they are doing and wish them well in all their undertakings, especially for the Lord's work and the ministers who are trying to bring them the message of right and love in all walks of life.



The old Jackson house, built in 1895 (middle), 1896 (back), and 1897 (front), was purchased by M. A. (Jack) Jacobs on Feb. 4, 1898 and was the home of the Jacobs family for 57 years before Mr. Jacobs' death in 1954. It was razed and rebuilt in 1920. The photo, taken in October, 1904 by Torkel Olson, shows Guy Jacobs, 7, and Maurice, 3, on horseback. Teams are Banker and Sailor, Taffy and Fox. M. A. Jacobs was an early day cowboy and freighter, and operated his ranch at the foot of the West Short Pines until his death. His son Guy is now on the ranch.



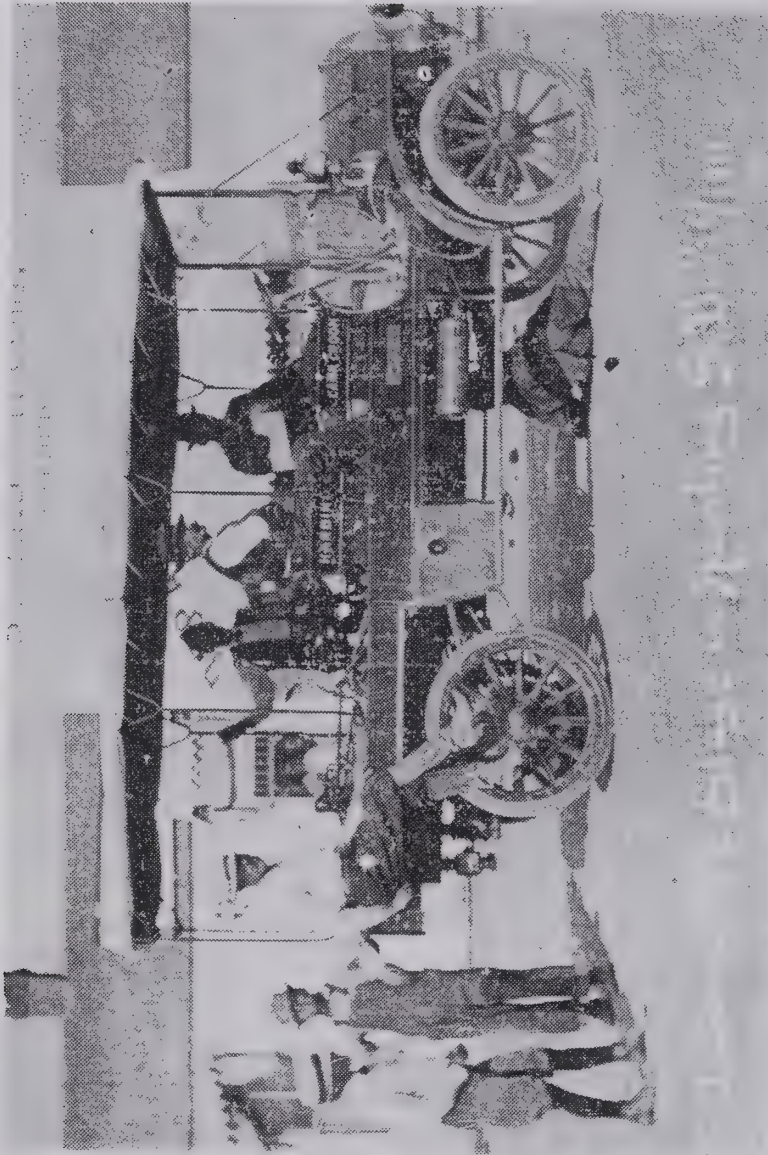
Scene showing part of crowd at early day fair at Harding.

HARDING SCHOOL, 1914



The Harding School class, pictured in 1914, included the following students: bottom row, left to right—Herbert Gardner, Carl Jacobs, Louis Zwick, Walter Penn; middle row—Maurice Jacobs, Bub (Floyd) Cooper, Gene Corey; top row—Vernon McCoid, Vernon Cooper, Alma (Gardner) Cooper, Guy Jacobs, Martha (Knight) Fisher, Jay Cooper. Teacher, Emma (Shrewsbury) Magee, is shown in inset.

Since the Harding area was the first part of Harding county to be settled, it is rich in early day history. For the purpose of this booklet, available material has been condensed considerably, and much material has been set aside for future presentation. An interesting feature of the Harding community is that the earliest families settling in the area are still represented there, and several of the original settlers still call Harding home. Since the earliest days of settlement the community of Harding has remained a closely knit community, contributing greatly to the growth and development of the area. Early families still in the area include members of the Penn, Jacobs, Gardner, Cooper, and McCoid families, who were numbered among those in the area at the turn of the century.



FIRST AUTOMOBILE STAGE TO SERVE HARDING AREA

In July of 1911, the first automobile stage to serve the route from Belle Fourche to Harding to Camp Crook appeared. Pictured above in front of the Stokes and McCoid store in Harding, the stage was operated by Jim Ashcroft. Tentative identification has been made as follows: The boy at left, Vernon McCoid; next, Charley Mackey; seated in seat labelled Harding, Henry McCoid; next and back of him, L. W. Shevling; in the driver's seat or under the stage, probably Jim Ashcroft; in the window or doorway, Mrs. McCoid, Miss Stokes, and O. O. Stokes.

CAMP CROOK HAD ITS BEGINNINGS ABOUT 1883

The community of Camp Crook, near the western boundary of Harding county, had its beginnings about the year 1883, when several families located on the Little Missouri. When the Padden family moved out from the Black Hills in 1885 they found three families, the Wickhams, Jacksons and Catrons at Camp Crook, then called Wickhamville. The postoffice was established in 1883 in the Jackson home. Others in that area included the Volins, John Stanley (Jess) Kerr, Greenup Moseley, "Dick" Turbiville, General Sweeney and John McNarie, in the early 1880's.

Here are presented several stories which will give an insight into early history of the Camp Crook area in those early days.

The following story of James Browning, founder of the first general store in Camp Crook, gives an insight into conditions in the area in the 1880's:

James Browning came to what is now Harding county in 1883. Mr. Browning established the first general store at Camp Crook, though he continued to live on for several years in Deadwood, where he owned another mercantile business in partnership with his brother-in-law, John Wringrose. The Deadwood store was started in a log cabin in 1776, when "Jim" as the old timers called him, arrived by mule team from Ogden, Utah, where he had worked as a section hand, laying ties for the Union Pacific as it worked its way westward.

Not long after the establishment of the Camp Crook store, it too housed in a log cabin, Mr. Browning, loving the wide open spaces, built up a cattle ranch twelve miles northwest of Camp Crook, in what is now known as the Midland Gap, but at that time and for many years it was known as "the old '83 Gap." This was owing to the fact that he took for his brand "'83", having come to the country in the year 1883.

In the spring of 1886, out of 300 head of cows, Browning and Wringrose rounded up about 30 head, the balance of the herd having died in the blizzard of that hard winter. Then Jim on his own, went into sheep, which business he operated until his death in 1911.

Among the many interesting stories told of the old timers, was one which proved the trust and faith which each held regarding the other. This was during the early 80's, when Mr. Browning drove back and forth between the Deadwood and the Camp Crook stores. In those days the big cattle companies and their cowpokes did a lot of buying. There was the CY, the Hash Knife, the Mill Iron and the Turkey Track. This money, for the most part, was paid in cash.

On one trip, in the winter when the snow was deep, Jim was driving in his buckboard from Camp Crook to Deadwood. In the old rusty brown satchel was a little over \$2,000.00 in cash on its way in from the Camp Crook store to the bank in Deadwood.

It was after dark when Jim drove in to the old Ostrander road ranch. He picked up the satchel, carried it into the dining room, which also served as the general living room, and threw it down under a home made bench that stood against the wall. After supper he "turned in" in a tiny bed room partitioned off the living room, along with several other such bedrooms.

The next morning he ate his breakfast, hitched up his team

and drove away. At noon when he stopped to grain his team and eat a lunch, he noticed the brown satchel was not there. It came to him that he had never picked it up that morning when he had left the ranch. There was nothing to do but to turn around and drive another full half day after it.

When he got in, the rancher's wife greeted him and carelessly remarked, "You came back after your satchel, Mr. Browning? It's right there under the bench where you left it. I mopped the floor but I left it right there." She smiled and went on visiting about the stock and the weather and other things.

It never occurred to that honest woman, or to anyone else who chanced to see it, to wonder what was in that satchel. Nor did James Browning ever doubt for a moment that his bag and its contents was anything but safe under the bench in that log shack where he had tossed it.

Those were the days when the law of the range was "live and let live."

EARLY MAIN STREET SCENE IN CAMP CROOK

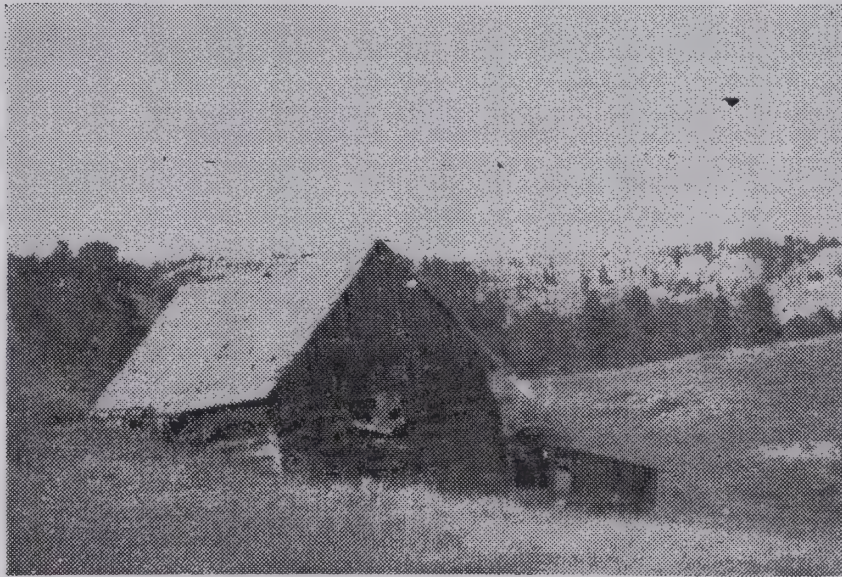


The scene above depicts the west side of Camp Crook's Main Street in early days. Looking from foreground to background, the buildings shown include the Little Missouri Bank, Jake Ridgway's saloon, the Gordon Hughes store, barber shop, two unidentified buildings, and the Latham Garage, formerly a livery stable. The men in the picture are not identified.

MY EARLY DAKOTA LIFE
(By Electa Padden Kerr (1874-1953))

My earliest recollection of the Little Missouri is hearing my father and mother talk, in the winter of '85 and '86, of a country where they could take up a homestead — a farm as it was expressed to me. My father was then in the lumber business with Fish and Hunter. Those men were both living at that time and owned a lumber yard in Deadwood and a sawmill back in the Hills, and my father often met people there who were interested also in taking up some land when it could be secured just for living on it and paying \$1.25 per acre, when the farms in Iowa were selling for so very much more.

So, early in the Spring of 1885, my father made a trip out north and decided that the opportunity to become a land owner was there waiting for him. As soon as arrangements could be made, he, my brother and Joe Herron loaded up with the necessary camp outfit, machinery, etc., came out and camped in the gulch just north of what is now called the Borders place. There they put up hay that could then be cut almost anywhere, built a dug-out and small barn and arranged for wintering our few head of cows that had been purchased here and there for \$75.00 and \$80.00. One we called Reddy, was bought from Mr. Rogers, the great grandfather of Helen



The Padden house, pictured above, was built in 1886 near the Long Pine Hills west of Camp Crook. The building is pictured as it appears in the summer of 1959. Nails used in construction of the building were of the old square cut variety and the main part of the building has withstood the buffeting of the weather for nearly 75 years. Although this home was west of the boarder of Harding county, the Padden family and others in that immediate area were very closely connected with Harding county history from its early beginnings.

Painter.

In the fall they brought the cattle out and Willard, since he couldn't be persuaded to go to school any longer, stayed with them that winter.

My sister and I continued on in the Deadwood schools that winter and she took a teachers' examination and passed. I finished 5th grade.

I was very much interested in what our new home would be like and was always asking questions, and I found out that a Post Office had been established that year. Before that the people who were there had been getting their mail from Stoneville, now Alzada, when anyone happened to be passing that way, but now they had a regular, once-a-week mail that was brought out from Minnesela by horseback. Also, I learned that there were three families living in Camp Crook — the Wickhams, Catrons and Jacksons; Mrs. Jackson kept the Post Office in her kitchen.

There was no Sunday School or day school yet.

Early in April, 1886, preparations were made for our journey to our new home. Mother cooked up food, packed our clothing and household articles that we would need for the summer, as we expected then to go back in time for school in the fall.

We camped the first night on False Bottom and the next on the Belle Fourche river west of Minnesela. The river was up, but by morning it had gone down so father thought we could cross; so we did, but the water came up into the wagon box which was a thrill to me and cause for alarm for my mother.

There was a family living on this side of the river and they came out to watch us cross. They had been waiting for the rise to fall so they could go to town. Mr. Lovell was there and he afterward became one of our mail carriers.

Our group consisted of father, mother, Nellie, my sister, and myself.

There isn't much to say about our trek from the Belle Fourche River to the Little Missouri; it took us five long days, and we slept in a tent on the ground. The mornings and evenings were chilly with only a camp fire to warm by. I never see canned corn now without thinking of that trip. I know we had other food but I cannot remember what it was.

We found no one living along the way and no one traveling, so we were happy indeed when on the evening of the 7th day we reached the Little Missouri River at the Huntington home. We stopped there to ask about the crossing, and Mr. and Mrs. Huntington and daughter Jessie walked down to the river with us. How nice it was to see them and they were glad to have new people come to locate. They told us about the Browns, Volins and Bovell families who lived a little way up the river and had been there two years.

We reached the camp that evening; since there were no fences, we could go straight across the country, and how good it seemed to sit up to a table even if it were only some rough pine boards.

Besides Willard, there were there Phil Rothman who offered to keep the camp in meat that winter, if he could stay, and Captain

Cone who had drifted west after the Civil War and was content to stay wherever there was a home offered. He remained as a much loved local character until he was taken ill the fall of 1898 and went to the Soldiers' Home in Hot Springs, where he died that same year.

The summer of 1886 was a very busy one. First of all a location must be found. My father wouldn't do anything about that until mother had looked around, so they went off horseback every day until they located a spring about three miles around on the south side of the Long Pine Hills.

As soon as possible then, a small log house was built and we moved to our new home. The sod had to be broken and planted; house logs for a larger building, fence posts and poles cut from the timber just back of the place. No permits were heard of then.

My job that summer was to learn to milk and ride horseback so I could look after the cows; also, dropped corn behind a spade, and potatoes in the furrows to be covered by the plow. My father sowed rutabaga seed and we had a large crop of them. My aunt sent garden seed from Iowa and my mother had a fine garden and a nice variety of vegetables; also melons and citron. Willard brought home a young antelope to me that summer and we became good friends, and I enjoyed him so much. I was lonely and was so disappointed one day when May and Joe Brown rode up and wouldn't get off their horses.

Needless to say we didn't see much of our neighbors that summer. They were busy, too, and on Sundays the horses had to rest. I remember that Mr. and Mrs. Buck called on us first; Jay was 4 months old. They were our very nearest neighbors and lived about two miles north of us. A little farther up in the hills were Mr. and Mrs. Chiesman and baby Lev. Mr. Chiesman was running the first and only sawmill and selling lumber to the Hashknife Company, who were building their ranch on Box Elder and, as several homesteaders came in that summer, he did a good business.

That was the summer of 1886 that the Hashknife trailed in thousands of cattle and turned them loose. For many years after, we could see the deep trails along the west side of the river where their weary feet had worn them some places a foot deep. Many of them died that winter although there was plenty of grass, but they had come from Texas and could not stand the cold. I have heard that the next year they rounded up about a third of them.

The winter of '86 and '87 was a long, lonely winter; our first snow fell early in October and laid on with much more until late in the spring.

The only time I was away from home was when I spent two weeks with Mrs. Chiesman while her husband was away.

My sister taught the first school in this country that year. Her pupils were Marie, Maud and May Bovell, Joe and May Brown and Bert Volin.

This winter was known as the "hard winter." I may have seen harder ones since, but they didn't seem so long. Our mail would accumulate until, when we did get it, there would be a grain sack full and how we did enjoy it! There would be letters from friends and relatives in Iowa, the Inter-Ocean, Frank Lesties Popular Monthly, and the Youth's Companion.

On January 2, 1887, was the worst blizzard I have ever

known, and many sad stories we heard in the spring of the sufferings on that day of people who had been lost and frozen. It was impossible for the men to get to the barn to feed until late in the afternoon.

Several cattle outfits between here and Powder River lost everything they had that year. Dick Catron and Lee Chuning started the K-K Ranch a few miles north of town that year and were heavy losers also.

The summer of 1887 saw several more families move in.

Mr. Frank Allen came out from Terraville, bringing a number of very fine horses, and started a horse ranch near Mr. Buck's, which he continued until his death in 1895. Their coming created no little interest, as they built the first frame house and had the first piano in this country — and the only one for a long time. When the house was completed, they had a dance. That was my first ball and I danced my first time with Mr. Chiesman. Fred Catron was working for Mr. Allen and he played the violin, which comprised the orchestra. Ray Allen was a small boy then, wearing his first pants, and Vere was a baby.

Mr. Whitcomb put in a saw mill near Capitol Rock that year; Lou Shevling, I believe, worked for him. Anyway we saw him now and then and Ralph being about Willard's age was a frequent visitor at our house. Mrs. Whitcomb visited us once, I remember, when Jennie (now Mrs. Carl Cornell of Buffalo) was a wee girl.

Mr. Wickham moved his family from town up to the gulch that still bears his name. Mrs. Edith Turbiville was a young girl then. Lottie, about my age; three boys, David, George and Elmer; and the baby Ellen.

Browning and Ringrose of Deadwood established a store that year in Camp Crook and Mr. Pryor moved his family out from Spearfish and took charge of it. Their daughter, now Mrs. Chuning of San Diego, was one of the first graduating class of Spearfish Normal.

The same year, Mr. and Mrs. Bickerdyke settled near the mouth of Cottonwood. He had been out several years before, hunting Buffalo, and after finding a wife came out to make his home there.

Mr. Wilder decided by then that buffalo were too scarce to make hunting profitable, so came and located on the place just across the river from town and took up the study of medicine, and for many years was our only doctor nearer than Deadwood, which seemed far away at that time.

Mr. Ashcroft brought his family from Canada about that time; Mrs. Moseley and Mrs. Boice were very young ladies, then, and Felix, Tom, Mrs. Jacobs and Jim grew up there. Mr. Ashcroft later kept a postoffice by that name.

By this time we had twice a week mail, carried by Mr. Macey in a buckboard, and I could ride well enough to be allowed to go to town after the mail which I carried in a sack tied behind the saddle. The road I took ran close around the foothills and across the flat north of the rocky butte in Ridgway pasture. There was no ranch or fences between our place and town.

I must not forget to say that Mr. Wilder killed the last buffalo to roam these prains. May Padden sometimes speaks of it. She was visiting Mrs. Wilder the summer of 1884 when they sighted it about a mile away, off to the south. Mr. Wilder took his pony

and buffalo gun and followed it across the river and out on the hills just west of the McDonnell place, where he got close enough to shoot it. Its bones could be seen there for a long time afterwards.

Long after the buffalo were gone, the Indians continued to roam over the country and each spring and fall would make a trip from the Sioux Reservation to the Rosebud and always camped for a while where our cemetery now is. They would hunt the antelope that trailed north or south, according to the season, sometimes in large herds. It was only necessary to be in wait for them.

It was quite a sight to visit their camp after a day of killing and see the meat hung to dry on the wheels and tongues of their wagons.

They usually went on foot when hunting and frequently called on us, but seldom had anything to say — just walked in and sat down. It sometimes gave us quite a surprise when we would look around and find them sitting quietly there in the kitchen. If you gave them something they would leave at once, but soon some more would come.

Mrs. Wilder told me once of a young Indian girl who came, carrying a baby. She gave them each a cookie; they left and another girl came with a baby; they each had a cookie, too. They kept that up for hours until she discovered it was the same baby.

If they found your doors closed, they would walk around the house and look in the windows.

Camp Crook was quite a trading post in those days. The store would take the deer, antelope and other hides in return for tobacco, bright-colored calico, safety pins and ribbon, of which they kept a supply for that purpose.

Sara, being food-minded, asks what did we have to eat? And I told her we didn't have any salads unless it was lettuce in the summer and cabbage slaw in the winter. We always had plenty of milk and butter and mother made cheese, ten to fifteen pound ones. I remember rows of them on the shelves in the spring house; they had to be turned and rubbed every day.

We put up ice out of the creek and often made ice cream in the summer. Our meat the first two years was either antelope or venison, except for an ox we had brought from Deadwood. We fed him rutabagas before butchering him and the meat tasted of them, but we ate it anyway. After that we had pork and chickens—some wild ones.

There was an abundance of buffalo berries and wild plums, and I cannot remember when there wasn't a supply of jelly and preserves on the cellar shelves.

1888 saw the advent of Montgomery Ward's catalog; then we sent there for our clothing.

Mr. Buck sent there for some groceries and thought they would try some oatmeal to see what it was like, but didn't care much for it, so traded it to my mother for butter, and we liked it.

My sister was married that year and sent off for wedding dress material and Mrs. Buck helped her make it.

I went to school that winter to Miss Alice Ashcroft on the river. Dollie Davis and I boarded at Byes'.

In the summer I went for a short term to Mr. Whitney and that fall tried teaching, at \$50.00 per month. Made enough to take

me to Spearfish Normal the next winter. Some of my pupils were Ray Allen, Frank Buck, Lev. Chiesman, the three Daniles girls, Ather and Luther Carter, Julia, Dan and Robert Livingston.

One of the high spots in my life is the time we call the Indian scare, that happened December of 1890. We were all nicely settled for the winter when word was sent out from Fort Meade that Sitting Bull and a band of his followers were missing from the Reservation. And, as there had been a feeling of unrest among the Indians that fall, it was thought best for the people out in this country to get together and prepare to protect themselves, until troops could be sent or Sitting Bull located.

Jess Kerr, Lee Chuning and Frank Gayton took it upon themselves to notify the people and rode day and night until everyone had the message. So everybody hastened to gather up their cherished possessions, food and guns and each little community congregated at a home of one of their neighbors.

We went up to Mr. Buck's. Their house sat in front of a hill in which the cellar was made and connected with the kitchen. From the cellar the men dug a tunnel to the side of the hill and made a cave there, with loopholes in which they placed food, water and ammunition; so, in case of a siege, they figured they could hold out quite a while.

Our greatest concern was for Dugal, who had gone to the railroad and we knew he was on his way back, alone and unarmed. His wife, my sister Nellie, was with us of course, and her concern was pathetic, though she said very little. One day, in showing me the Christmas gifts she had for the family, she pointed to one and said, "This is for Dugal, if I ever see him again." Elsie was nearly three months old, the only carefree member of the family.

I cannot remember how long we were there, but I know life became rather monotonous in a few days. My father, becoming restless, decided he would ride into Camp Crook and hear what he could of the outside world. He arrived there just as the troops from Fort Keough did, so he had good news for us, and we made preparations then to return to our homes. We heard afterward that the people up the river had built a fort in the top of the hill west of Capitol; the excavations can still be seen there.

Then there was a group of people in the log hotel in town; they took turns standing guard while the others enjoyed themselves with dancing and other pastimes.

The people on Valley Creek gathered at the Lewis home, which still stands. Afterward we heard many amusing tales of false alarms, etc., which were not the least amusing at the time. One I heard of was that a German boy standing night guard began singing in his native tongue, and thinking it was an Indian war cry, the men rushed to their guns, women fainted and children were hustled to the cellar, and it was only poor, lonesome Hans.

After that the country settled up quite rapidly; school houses were built and now and then a missionary minister would come out and organize a church. Rev. George Perry organized the first Sunday School in Camp Crook. With the advent of the settlers and their wire fences, the large cattle companies saw that they could no longer carry on. The last to leave was the C.Y. which closed out in 1908. They were located on the river near the Painter ranch.

Another of the early Camp Crook pioneers who is still making her home in Camp Crook is Mrs. May (Brown) Padden. Born in 1874 at Yankton, S. Dak., she moved with her parents, brothers and sisters to Rapid City when three years old. At the age of nine her parents moved by covered wagon to a ranch 5 miles up the river to the northwest of Camp Crook. Her father was one of the first gold-miners to come to Deadwood, and later pioneered at Rapid City and again at Camp Crook.

Coming out in advance of his family, A. P. Brown took a claim, then went to Iowa to buy cattle to stock his place. He hired some men to stay on his place, build fences and put up hay. The big ranchers, who resented new ranchers moving in and taking claims on open range, proceeded to get rid of Brown's men. They told them Indians were on the rampage and would surely scalp them if they didn't leave. They were so frightened they immediately left for the Black Hills.

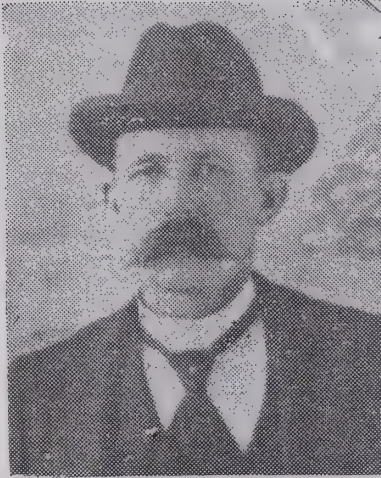
Meanwhile, Brown had bought 161 head of cattle to stock his ranch. It was late fall when he arrived and found no fences and no hay. Being too late to do much about it, he attempted to winter there anyhow, with the result that by spring he had no cattle left. Many died and many drifted with the winter storms. In the spring Wm. Lefors of the Hashknife ranch offered Brown a job cooking and by fall Hashknife cowboys had rounded up 48 head of his cattle, some as far away as Belle Fourche.

In 1887 Brown moved to Tennessee, renting their place near Camp Crook and moving by wagon. Disappointed in the crops and worn out soil of Tennessee and hearing from Mr. Volin of Camp Crook that their renters had quit the place and everything was going to pieces, Brown loaded his family into the wagon and began the long trek back to their South Dakota home.

When May Brown was 21 years old she married Willard Padden, with Rev. J. M. Gardner of Nashville performing the ceremony. Since Mr. Padden's father had passed away shortly before this time, Willard had to take his mother and sister by wagon back to their ranch after the wedding ceremony, leaving his bride to attend Ladies' Aid meeting on the afternoon of her wedding day.

The Methodist church of Camp Crook was started about the time Mr. and Mrs. Padden were married, and she has been a member of the same church in Camp Crook since that time, holding office in the congregation almost continually since about 1900. She has made a tradition of treating the Sunday School children to an easter egg hunt on Easter morning. The past year, due to arthritis in her hands, she was unable to color the eggs, but treated the children to candy easter eggs, not wanting to disappoint them.

Mrs. Padden's husband, Willard B. Padden, who passed away in January, 1957, operated the Padden ranch until 1912, when they moved to Camp Crook. In 1925 he purchased a store in Camp Crook which he operated until 1956, when it was destroyed by fire. He took an active part in the affairs of the Camp Crook area and Harding county, serving as a school and town officer, and a county commissioner for 18 years. The Paddens have been typical of the pioneer families who have developed Harding county through lean years and good.



John Stanley (Jess) Kerr, the husband of Electa Padden Kerr, came to the area in 1886, coming up with the Texas trail herds. He operated a store and restaurant in Camp Crook in the late 1880's, marrying Electa Padden Jan. 1, 1896 at the home of Dougal McDonnell near Camp Crook.

He homesteaded on the Little Missouri River south of Camp Crook, establishing the JK ranch. Lived in the house in Camp Crook where Tom Moseleys now live. The ranch is now owned by John B. Catron.



Another of the colorful pioneers of the Camp Crook area was Sol Catron, pictured above with Mrs. Catron. Mr. and Mrs. Catron were married in Mound City, Mo., in March, 1874, coming shortly after to the Black Hills, where Sol prospected for gold for a time in 1876. He later sold garden stuff to the mining camps, and made the acquaintance of such famed characters as Wild Bill Hickok, Jack McCall, Calamity Jane and Preacher Smith. He had seen Bill Hickok and McCall on the night of Wild Bill's death shortly before the incident, according to stories of his life. Settling on the Little Missouri in 1883, the Catrons made their home there until their death. They were active in the community, and Sol Catron served several terms as a county commissioner.

Mrs. Catron passed away Jan. 28, 1937, and Mr. Catron died September 7 of the same year at the age of 91.

BEGINNINGS OF THE BULLOCK COMMUNITY

The following story of the beginnings of the Bullock community was written by Joe Painter, a lifetime resident of the area:

In 1895 the CY Cattle Company moved from Wyoming to the Little Missouri river in South Dakota and established a ranch headquarters on the river which is just across the river from where the Jernberg ranch is now. They built up a complete ranch outfit consisting of a log bunk house with several rooms and quite a good set of barns and corrals. They built a little dam in the creek that flows into the river just across the river from the buildings and irrigated a little meadow for the production of hay for their saddle horses. Some of the cowboys from the CY outfit settled near this camp and established ranches of their own.

L. L. Painter and Lee and Bobby DeVine settled near, L. L. Painter settling about two miles north of this ranch and the DeVine boys about two miles southwest. They stayed and made final proof on their land and received deeds from the government after proving up their claims. These were the first permanent settlers near where Bullock was established.

There was a postoffice at the Ashcroft ranch that was called Ashcroft postoffice and the ranchers got their mail there. The mail came from Camp Crook to Ashcroft at that time.

Willetts took up a desert claim on the Little Missouri about six miles north of the Painter ranch and moved there to live permanently in about 1907 and then the neighbors established a mail route from Ashcroft to Willett and carried the mail free of charge for more than a year and the Postal Department then granted them a postoffice at Willett and appointed Neola Willett (Brewer), who is now living in Camp Crook, as the first postmaster in 1908. By this time the Milwaukee Railroad had come to Bowman and there was a mail route to Karinen, so then the Department established a mail route from Bowman to Willett to Ashcroft to Camp Crook.

Then in 1910 and 1911 a lot of people moved into this country and homesteaded and they felt the need of a postoffice, so they got Bullock established in 1912 by carrying the mail from Ashcroft to the new Bullock.

The Little Missouri River was such a natural barrier that the Postal Department finally changed the routes so the mail came from Bowman to Bullock via Ladner as it does now (the Bullock postoffice has been discontinued) and another route was established from Camp Crook to Marmarth as the whole country was settled in the time from the early 1900's to 1912.

Millie Zerda (Grasby) takes over the story of Bullock from the year 1910 when the homesteaders began to arrive in force:

About the year 1910 many families in southern Minnesota became excited over the Homestead Law which had just been passed. For a small pittance, sixteen dollars, a family could acquire 160 acres of land after living on it for a year and cultivating a few acres.

"Such a bargain should not be passed up", was the thought of several men in the villages. They began thinking of such an existence in the "wild and wooly west", saving their hard-earned dollars for a preview visit to Harding county. These homesteaders

were of hardy stock, willing to work, but they could foresee the need of a general merchandise store for the settlers. They therefore put heavy pressure on a store-keeper in the village of Houston, Minn., urging him to start such a store to aid the squatters in their struggle for existence on the bleak prairie. By 1912 these courageous pioneers set off for Bowman, North Dakota, where they contacted the land agents who were eager to show them the land. The men from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa found the kind of land they wanted about twelve miles north of Camp Crook and began building their shacks from the turf.

Seeing their need of a postoffice to get their letters from home, K. B. Grasby applied for the permission to have a third-class postoffice in one corner of his store. Suggesting that the postoffice be named Grasby, South Dakota, he was disappointed when the authorities named it Bullock, after a general of the early American fighters against the Indians. In this way Bullock became the center of the community, for here they could get their mail, their groceries, hardware and dry goods supplies.

The first mail driver was Mr. Johnson, a great story teller who often entertained by relating the events that took place in a circus of which he was a member.

However, there was one more need which was evident from the number of children around Bullock. That need was a school teacher. The people had a meeting and formed a school board by election. Andrew Peterson, the chairman, Ole Peterson and Carl Strom were now responsible for the education of the next generation. In June, 1912 Mr. Grasby's daughter would graduate from the Houston High School, making her eligible for teaching. Thus the stage was set for the first school in Bullock. A shack was moved close to the Bullock store and postoffice with an old fashioned stove to keep the wintry chill out. The following September the school was opened with ten pupils and Alma Grasby was the pioneer teacher. However, still one element was lacking to make a perfect community.

Most of the settlers were of Norwegian or Scandinavian extraction and of Lutheran faith. These people were well acquainted with Bible principles, the foremost of which says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." They knew, too, that faith cannot lie dormant or it will die. This exercise of faith should be done under the watchful care of a shepherd. Therefore the people of Bullock summoned a pastor who was already shepherding a flock in Buffalo twenty miles away. This pastor, Olaf Olson, came once a month by horse and buggy to water his human sheep with the Living Waters of God's Word. On this day he would attend to the Ashcroft congregation five miles beyond Bullock across the Little Missouri River for an afternoon meeting. With these two congregations organized only a short time elapsed before the women had their Ladies' Aid Society which formed a social unit for miles around. The rule was to serve only a light lunch of sandwiches, coffee and one kind of cake for which a contribution of ten cents was asked. This occasion was a red letter day for everyone of every faith and nationality for miles around. The men formed baseball teams, competing with each other, a form of relaxation more exhilarating because of the large gathering. This formed the whole countryside into a large informal family so people were no longer strangers to each

other. This cement of friendship made life enjoyable in those pioneer days, so truly we felt the spirit behind the song, "That's Where the West Begins." I have traveled in many states and countries but have never experienced such a warmth and hospitality as was present in this pioneer community. No one could be lonely or homesick in such an atmosphere of love and congeniality.

Besides the assembly of Ladies' Aids where sometimes over a hundred would congregate, there were dances held in Gallup Hall. Both young and old would enjoy the waltzes and two-steps with occasional polkas and schottisches; nor could the evening be complete without one square dance or Virginia Reel with Hans Williams on the platform calling out "Swing your partners." These occasions were all night affairs, for coyotes and wolves were still a danger to those who dared cross the prairies before the streak of dawn in their open wagons or sleighs. Sometimes, too, the excitement was heightened by the sleigh tipping over an embankment with its cargo of young people thrown into drifts of snow. The general spirit of these dances was that of good, clean fun with no fighting or quarrels, for Old Man Whiskey was not popular with the girls, the whiskey breath being enough excuse for a girl to decline the invitation to dance.

After the first homestead year many of the young boys went back to Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. However, the families with the true pioneer spirit have made Bullock their home, continuing the traditions that made the community noted for its hospitality and good fellowship. On this fiftieth anniversary, may everyone vow to hold fast to the principles that permeated the pioneers, "Love to God and love to our fellow man."

In 1925, the Grasbys sold out to Petersons, and the postoffice was moved to the Little Missouri. Later Louise Schmotzer operated the store and postoffice at Bullock, selling out to Walter Plunketts. The postoffice was discontinued about 1957. The Bullock Community Hall, which was erected several years ago, is now the community center of Bullock, where gatherings and social affairs are held.

Millie Zerda, Joe Painter, Caroline Heggem and several others have worked to assemble historical data of the Bullock community.



Pictured is the first school house in Bullock. In the picture are Blanche Peterson, Albert Johnson, Viola Peterson, Pearl Bringgold, teacher, Secrie Peterson, Sulo Peterson, Carl Johnson.

FIRST KVINDEFARENING (LADIES AID) AT ASHCROFT, S. DAK. AT GILBERTSON'S, MUD BUTTE



July 14, 1911—Pictured are, back row, left to right (men) — Nels Remmen, Peter Remmen, Amos Rice, Adolph Gilbertson, Gilbert Gilbertson, John Rice, Arthur Sviggum, Peter Heggem, Ole Peterson, Ole Oleson.
 2nd row (women standing) Caroline Peterson. Mrs. Carlson, Edda Remmen, Olga Grathe, Millie Remmen Evenson, Donna Tarter, Amanda Remmen Hedges, Rosie Aronovitz, Olava Heggem, Norma Gilbertson Rufsvold, Jennie Strom, (unknown), Mabel Olson, Millie Grasby.
 Women seated (short row) (child) Thelma Sunde, Mrs. Ole Sunde and baby, Mrs. Ole Olson, Mrs. Knut Grasby, (woman with child unknown).
 Women seated (front row) Mrs. P. Remmen, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Dan Tarter, Mrs. M. Johnson, Mrs. Ole Grathe, Mrs. () Grathe, Mrs. Gilbert Gilbertson, (unknown) Mrs. John Rice, Mrs. Beret Benson.
 Children on ground—Arthur Grathe, Agnes Sunde, Cora Johnson, Gladys Gilbertson Mack, Gladys Remmen Gilbert, Mabel Johnson, Marcella Gilbertson, (unknown) Lela Tarter Simons. Lawrence Gilbertson.

FIRST CLASS OF GRADE PUPILS AT BULLOCK



Alma Grasby, teacher, in back. Julia Jernberg, Ray Nelson, Viola Peterson, Everett Ludlum, Secrie Peterson, Blanche Peterson, Sulo Peterson, Alina Jernberg (in front), Axel Carlson, Lambert Ludlum.

FIRST STORE AND POSTOFFICE AT BULLOCK



A group of homesteaders of the Bullock area gather around the postoffice and store in the early days of that community. The store was operated by K. B. Grasby. Many of the homesteaders of the Bullock area remained and made their permanent homes in their new Harding county home. Members of these early families are among today's community leaders in the area.

TYPICAL HOMESTEADER OF GALLUP AREA



Typical of the homesteaders who settled in the area, proved up, and later returned east is Martin J. Thompson, shown with his pony and homestead shack at the head of Gallup Creek near the big red scoria butte. Thompson, now a resident of Wautoma, Wis., still owns his land here.

GALLUP TOWN BOARD



Pictured above are members of the Gallup Township Board, as they appeared in May of 1924. Left to right in upper row: Robert Dobson, C. M. Christianson, Elmer Albertson, John A. Nelson. Lower row: Nels Nelson, Clarence Ludlum, Albert E. Albertson, and John Hanson.

GALLUP WAS ANOTHER THRIVING LITTLE COMMUNITY



During the homestead days, the little community of Gallup thrived, as did many of the little postoffice and store communities. The Hagstrom and Greene Store carried a full stock of merchandise for the convenience of the homesteaders in the neighborhood, and the Gallup Hall was the scene of many dances and other entertainments.

An insight into activities in the Gallup area may be gained from these news items in a 1915 newspaper:

H. W. Miller and J. E. Heindahl went to Bowman Friday
Miss Pearl Bringgold is visiting friends at Hettinger, N. Dak. . . .
A. W. Facey and L. E. Hagstrom spent Wednesday at the county seat.
Mike Rooney isn't on the water wagon now—he is hauling wheat for Mrs. Tracy Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Titrington report having a splendid time at the Monroe ranch Monday evening . . . Don't send your butter and eggs to Sears or Uncle Mont. Hagstrom takes them in exchange for merchandise. . . . You can notice many smiling faces in this vicinity. Not Grape-Nuts, but the additional homestead act. Lamphere Bros. and Jack Burt have left the valley for North Dakota to help some of the prosperous farmers through the spring rush. . . . P. L. Peterson, one of Gallup's most hustling and prosperous farmers, is seeding wheat. . . . The Gallup Sunday School will be reopened Easter Sunday. This is a continuation of the original, formed in 1910 Remember the Easter Monday dance at Gallup Hall Peter Anderson just arrived from Bowman with a nice load of merchandise for the home store. . . . C. H. Cleveland and Mrs. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Bell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Hagstrom. . . . A letter from the Olseth family says they are enjoying their new location at Canton, S. Dak. The Olseths were very prominent settlers in this section.



An early scene on the J. N. Welsby place in the Ladner area. In the picture are Martin Dake, team and wagon at left, Welsby in doorway, Pete Wheelock, Otto Zimmer, Garth Jensen on water wagon and an unidentified man, probably the photographer's driver.

LADNER COMMUNITY THRIVED AS TOWN FOR MANY YEARS

The Ladner community, which now consists of the store and postoffice operated by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Gotfredson, the Lutheran church, the school, and the Edson Stenerson home, for a number of years thrived as a booming little two store town, with blacksmith, barber and all.

A unique feature of the community history of Ladner is the way it got its name. The story came about as follows:

Martin Griffin was the first homesteader in the area in 1908-1909 and built the first sod shack there, directly west of the store location. Martin Dake, long time resident of the Ladner area now living at Redig, was the first to turn sod at Ladner, with John Johnson holding the plow for him. They helped Martin Griffin make his shack. Later, when it came time to select a name for the new town, the name "Doten" was submitted to the Postoffice department in honor of Fred Doten, who operated a ranch near the town. This was turned down because of another place with the same name. The men were celebrating the beginning of the new town and Mr. Griffin suggested that "Rendal" be submitted as the name, since the whiskey the men were drinking was labelled "Rendal Bottling Co." Mr. Haseldalen suggested reversing the name, making it "Ladner" and thus the new community received its name. After finishing the business of naming the place, they all had a shave by the new town's barber, Albert Rogne, now a resident of Elko, Minn. O. P. Goodnough, now of Bowman, was one of the men present.

The first school house, in 1910, was a 10x12 shack bought from Tom McAlister. It was established by Michael Moe along with a house to house the preacher by the name of Danielson. It was located one half mile northwest of Michael Moe's homestead. The first teacher there was Tom's sister, Florence McAlister, later Mrs. Curtis Cushmen. There were about 18 pupils in this small building that first year. Teachers boarded with neighbors or came from home, and were paid a salary of about \$40.00 a month.

Another school was built up one fourth mile southwest of Torkel Johnson's house, another was built north of the Stitch place. Then Gerge Engen moved the Stitch school house, with the building on skids, pulled by a steam engine, to the Hahn corner. The school house near Johnsons' was also moved to the same location and used as a teacherage, in 1924. In 1934 O. P. Goodnough moved the school buildings, on wagon wheels, pulled with a tractor, to the Whitter quarter (Mrs. Whitter was a sister of Elizabeth Johnson and Edith Bear), one half mile south of Ladner. The year 1953 Melvin Miller moved the school buildings to the present site at Ladner with a commercial moving truck in just a few minutes. Teachers this year (1959) were paid \$330.00 salary.

In the early days of 1910-11, church services were held in the homes or school houses. One family by the name of Gartch who had left the country, had a fairly good sized sod house, so services were held there until 1915. The two congregations, Hoiland and Ladner Evangelical, had merged in 1917 and started a basement and church where the Ladner cemetery is. Hard times had prevented it from being completed and in 1928 a cyclone hit, tearing it down. The Oluf Hole store, which was the first store at Ladner, was purchased

and used for a number of years as a church. It was moved on rollers and pulled by tractor. In 1939 it was remodeled and is situated across the road from the Ladner school now.

Neilius Haseldalen had a sod blacksmith shop in Ladner about 1912. The location was where the church now stands. Julius Olson bought Haseldalen's business and was blacksmith a number of years, when he became a blacksmith and postmaster at Karinen.

The first grocery store in the community was the Hahn store, located on the quarter northeast of Mikal Iverson's homestead. Many old timers remember going there to buy the necessities and winter staples. When Hahns sold out the stock, Arnold Gunderson bought a large sack of pearl barley. He remembers that the family enjoyed many meals of barley soup and johnny cake that winter. In Ladner, Oluf Hole owned the first general store, and was first postmaster of Ladner. The Hole residence was situated east of where the store and postoffice are now. Clayton Dake had a store and dance hall just south of where the store now sits. In 1926 he moved the building across to the present site and took over as postmaster the same year. Clayton also bought cream and took it to the Rhame depot twice a week. Clayton purchased the Garth Jensen house, moved it in from south of Winslow Heath's homestead and it was used for part of the present Ladner store.

In 1910, all got their mail out of Karinen on a stage route to Willett on to Camp Crook. Mail boxes were located one mile west of Ladner. Clayton Dake was active postmaster for years; then his wife, Ida Dake took over as postmistress until 1944, when they sold the buildings and acre they stand on to Mr. and Mrs. Lou Gotfredson, and Mrs. Gotfredson became postmistress in July of 1944. Dakes had moved their residence across the road east from the store about 1939. This place was sold to Edson Stenerson in 1944, and Dakes retired and moved to Buffalo. Population of Ladner (1959) is an even dozen, since one member is serving in the navy.

Wm. J. "Shorty" Quinlan was first to get a mail contract from Bowman to Camp Crook in 1909. John Johnson took the contract in 1913. John roomed with Dakes for a while, later marrying Elizabeth Nelson of Ladner. Then Johnson had the route from Bowman to Ladner and Oscar Hanson from Karinen to Camp Crook. Horses were changed at the Harry Hinkley place for a time. Later the route was changed so they changed horses eleven miles south of Rhame at the Pete Wicks ranch. They also changed horses at Karinen and Ladner. About 1919 Lynn Clark hauled mail from Ladner to Bullock. John Johnson still had the Bowman-Ladner route. Next carriers on that route were Dick Allen, Joe Fairbanks, Myron Gabeline, Mr. Cadwell, Alvin Olson, Arvy Enloe and Bagleys. Walton Thune was the first mail carrier on the new route from Ladner to Buffalo, 1928-34. Alfred Nelson, Bill Stitch, Howard Bear, Martin Gunderson, Pete Gunderson and Eddie Stenerson have succeeded him.

The first baby born in the immediate area after Ladner was named was a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. August Grimson in 1911. When Mrs. Grimson became sick a man by the name of James Westeby borrowed a horse from Taylor Hahn to ride to Camp Crook for the doctor. Unknown to him the horse had been and was a race horse. Once he got started there was no stopping him until they

arrived in Crook. Poor Mr. Westeby was in much worse shape than Mrs. Grimson and remained sick from his ride a long time after.

In those days most folks around Ladner stayed at home while sick and most babies were born right at home. Mrs. Bue, Mrs. Fontaine (later Mrs. John Booth), Mrs. Jane Graves and Mrs. Sharpe were a few of the women folks depended upon to render their services when anyone became sick or the stork called. Some of the remedies used in the home were—for poultices: mustard, soap and sugar mixture, or boiled flax. Application of goose grease, lard or skunk oil before applying turpentine was used for chest colds. Application of epsom salts and baking soda and kerosene were used for burns.

The women were very active in community affairs, especially church activities. Despite traveling conditions they seemed to visit and help each other with their work. The ladies had a Home Extension club about 1936. Members were ladies from the Ladner and Karinen areas. The men and boys enjoyed ball games here at Ladner, while the younger folks played games. In 1922-23 Walton Thune, Wesley Meigs and Frank DeLong furnished stock for rodeos. They had some real salty horses, steers and calves. One year Bill Forman, Harold Ekberg and Claire Skeel were top riders. They also had a potatoe race on horseback. In 1917 and 1918 a couple of horse races took place. Martin Dake entered a horse by name of "Pat." Others taking part were John and Vincent Hoyman, Win Heath, Arnold Gunderson, Henry Oinas, Lynn Clark, Abbotts and the Ekberg boys. Wesley Meigs was jockey on "Pat." He was coming in just fine when "Pat" became frightened of the crowd so took off for home. Finally Wes got "Pat" straightened out and still came in. There is still a question who won. At that time fences were still few and far between and of course telephone and REA poles weren't even dreamed of.

In 1928 Lynn Clark, son-in-law of Clayton Dake, flew out from Mason City, Iowa with a small bi-plane. He gave many their first plane ride.

In 1916-17-18 our boys and men were culled out and the better group were drafted for World War I. The first ones going were John Hoyman, Earl Abbott, Bill Stitch, Walton Thune, Ole Veneers, Henry Lee, George Engen and Pete Tollefsrud. To the second World War in 1941 the first called in our community were Pete Gunderson, George Johnson, Arthur Iverson, Merle Mork, Sig Bue, and Howard Bear. Many other young men from the community served in both World Wars and several in the Korean conflict.

Every so often a dance would be held in Ladner. Folks, young and old, all danced. There was no such thing as belonging to a certain group to do so. Most dances were square dances or hop waltzes. The musicians, at the piano was Una Dake or Blanche Skeel; violinists were Mart and Clayton Dake, George and Harry Cammack, Boston Gilbertson and Ellef Engen. They'd dance lots of times until dawn.

Threshing was a time looked forward to by everyone especially the youngsters. Of course they were forbidden to go near the steam engine and rig and later the threshing machine. We kids though, never missed the chance to play in the straw pile, a luxury few of this generation have. Michael Moe, Wm. Stitch and Abbott brought in the big steam threshing outfit. Eli Milender and Mr. Abbott were water monkeys and one time had the misfortune

of tipping the wagon when backing too close to the creek.

The women of those days on the prairie would prepare foods for several days before the threshers were expected, standing over wood and coal stoves in hot kitchens. All foods had to be made and how they were preserved amazes one nowadays when we have all the conveniences and foods ready to cook on store shelves. My mother would take the dairy products to the cellar or if it was to be kept real sweet would place it in a bucket and lower it in the well to keep cold. I remember her setting jello the same way. Later years my Dad put up ice and made an ice box for her. She was very happy with this. Meat was usually butchered late in the fall and dried or put down in crocks in salt brine. Butter, sour kraut and corn were taken care of the same way. Eggs were put in a water glass solution.

It took my dad over a month to uncover and haul the winter supply of coal. He'd uncover it with a shovel as it was easier to get at first, then later with a scraper. The coal mine was the Cottonwood mine located south and east of the oil field.

Use of wild fruits such as plums, chokecherries, currants and buffalo berries was practiced by all, and a good time was had when neighbors got together picking them. One story goes that three ladies got a horse and borrowed a fancy buggy from Matt Litwitt. They went to a draw about two miles or more from Morks' place to pick cherries. They tied the horse to some brush and during the while the women were picking, the horse got anxious for her colt, broke loose and went home. Between the three women they pulled and pushed the buggy home, arriving there about 1:00 o'clock in the morning. Asking why the men hadn't come to see about them, one of the men answered, "Well, the horse had come home all right. so"

Some of the early residents in the Ladner area were Fred Doten, who ran sheep at the head of Bull Creek and northwest to the Sand Hills, about 1909. Bill Ake, Frank and Joe Moore were here at that time also. 1910 (a dry year), 1911 and 1912 were the years the homesteaders came in. Black tarpaper shacks and sod houses could be seen on nearly every quarter. Filing east and south east of Ladner were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rogne, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhardt H. Gunderson and six children, Martin and Gina Gunderson, Mr. and Mrs. Casper Gunderson, Ruth and Ralph, Oliver Goodnough, Worlicks, Oscar and Nelius Haseldalen, Beavers, Claus Valen, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Bear, Barbara and Howard, Mr. and Mrs. John Serles and Julie, Lynn Clark, Mable Serles, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crumb, Eli Milender, Oscar and Lawrence Graves. South of Ladner were Ole Nelson, Dr. Henry Kleinschmidt, Ernie Kalrod family, Carl Paulson. Southwest of Ladner: Michael Moe family, Julius Olson, Engen families, Torkel Johnson, Grimsons, Halvor and Sam Lee, August May, Hegstrom, Jett and W. C. Bell. West of Ladner and northwest and southwest: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stitch Sr., Erick Olson, Martin Bues, Martin Morks, Hoymans, Abbotts, Jake Egland, Whitters, Sam Alversons, Carl Pedersons, Theo. Hahns, Ed Mosing, Hocket. North and northeast: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dake, Clayton Dake, Martin Dake, John Johnson, Hahn, who had the store on the corner northeast of Pete Gunderson's place, Mike Iverson, Alfred Nelson.

Those who took homesteads later included Walton Thune, Arnold Gunderson, Carl Erickson, and Ted Sinclair, who filed west of

Lola Butte and married Pearl Abbott.

When many of the homesteaders moved in they found the country black in the Ladner area, a prairie fire having started near the Sand Hills northwest of the Hoyman place at Doten's sheep camp. Martin Gunderson was herding. The fire burned southeast to Bull Creek, covering an area 8 to 10 miles in length from Table Mountain to Bull Creek in width.

Mrs. Edson Stenerson, who gathered the information in the Ladner area with the help of several neighbors, has submitted several additional stories, including some good homesteading anecdotes, which will be covered in the next booklet of this series.



The first mail route to Bullock from Ladner—Lynn Clark and team with load of mail sacks.



Walton Thune with four-horse team and load of poles from the Long Pine Hills, in 1922.



A sod schoolhouse built in 1910 served residents southeast of Ladner. The building was located about 10 rods north of the present James Clarkson house. The picture, taken in April, 1911, shows Gladys Ott, Grace Oddy, Kathleen, Ilah and Genevieve Moore, Miss Lillian Hoskin, teacher, Tod Werlick, Keith Ott, Donald Shoup, Leslie and Jesse Moore, and Ed Oddy on the end.



Threshing at the Moe place. Identification of the picture is not certain, but Oscar and Amanda Moe identify them as follows: in the row in foreground are Mrs. Jensen, Minnie Erickson, Marie Iverson, Mike Iverson, Olga Iverson and Amanda Moe. Back of them is Michael Moe, owner of engine and Carl Peterson. Lawrence Graves is thought to have been operating separator. Others who may be pictured are Arthur St. Claire, Carl Erickson, Matt Stitch, Bill Stitch, Martin Mork, Martin Bue, Torkel Johnson, Earl Abbott. A crew of 25 to 30 men operated rig. Picture taken about 1916. Oscar Moe and Otis Nelson in grain wagon.

RALPH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHEASTERN HARDING COUNTY

The Ralph community has been one of the most important small communities in Harding county since the early homestead days. The area is a diversified farming and ranching area, and has been an important population center in the county since its founding. The village of Ralph was located near Big Nasty Creek and named Ralph for the middle name of its original settler, Jas. R. Howard.

The following items are taken from the Ralph Republican, a newspaper published at Ralph for several years beginning August 4, 1911, by DeVaney and Holland. Mrs. Arthur Erdman gathered the items for use at this time.

This story of Jas. R. Howard, one of the earliest pioneers of the area, was published in the "Republican" in the issues of Aug. 25, and Sept. 1, 1911:

Lapse of time and efforts of imaginative historians have given to the present generation many heroes. Both add luster to the deeds of men. Captain Miles Standish, brave man that he was otherwise, dared not approach the woman he desired to make his wife and John Alden, his envoy, while interceding for his friend, the captain, stumbles onto the fact that he could win Priscilla himself. Here the poet Longfellow stepped in and made the whole bunch famous. Now every school boy learns of the fame of both men in his first little book on American history and "teacher" tells him about the Longfellow poem.

To us it is far more interesting to meet and talk with a man whose life has been full of adventure and experience than it is to accept one of your long dead heroes, records of whose deeds are all preserved and handed down to succeeding generations in forms that are convenient, and like patent medicines, easy to take.

Standish, Alden and the rest undoubtedly did some good work in their time and we would not, for a minute, attempt to rob them of any credit that is due them but we have with us one of their descendents—a real live descendent—who interests us at this particular time far more than the heroes of Pilgrim days. Jas. R. Howard, whose humble abode on the banks of the Big Nasty was for years before the advent of the homesteader the only break in the monotony of the prairie, is not a hero. Nor does he claim to be, but he has lived a life full of adventure and has, with others, penetrated more new territory and paved the way for larger extension of civilization than did many of the fellows who got their names into history and poetry by bluffing a few Indians or wooing a maiden by proxy.

True, Mr. Howard is only one of the many who assisted in pushing the borders of civilization westward but his experiences are typical of the frontiersman and as such are intensely interesting. We have had several talks with the old gentleman since we arrived at Ralph and have enjoyed them so much that we regret our inability to put his many experiences into print as he told them to us. This article is indeed a feeble attempt in that direction.

By birth Mr. Howard is a genuine down-easter, having been born at Keene, New Hampshire, of parents directly descended from

A GROUP OF RALPH PIONEERS



Shown above are a group of early day residents of the Ralph area, including, standing, Ivan Bell, Ben Bell, three unidentified men; seated, Thornton Ames, left, and Jas. R. Howard, right, the man after whom Ralph was named. The group are shown in front of Mr. Howard's home.



A threshing crew pictured at the Dan Prendiville ranch in the Ralph community about 1932. Most of these men are still living in the area.

the pilgrims. He still retains the dialect of the east but in experience and in his habits he is a typical westerner. He came out west at an early age, coming to Minneapolis first, but the town was not exciting enough for him so he pushed still farther west, seeing new country and following many occupations. Being ahead of the railroad by several hundred miles, he spent considerable time on the Missouri and Platte rivers. For a number of years he freighted with ox trains for the government between various forts. This in '59 brought him to Denver where there was, as yet, but one log cabin and a few tents. This was the beginning of the gold rush and the population of Denver consisted of miners, hunters, trappers, traders, Mexicans and Indians. Kit Carson, the famous scout, was perhaps the most distinguished man in the little frontier colony at the time and Mr. Howard remembers his making a speech in "the street" which was widely cheered. Monte and all other games afforded amusement for the colony and the drinking was awful, plenty of the fire water being dispensed from several tents.

In 1861 Howard joined a government expedition fitted out for the purpose of protecting Oregon Immigrants from the attacks of the hostile Snake Indians. On this expedition there was one skirmish with the Indians who attacked the party one night and took their horses and mules. The members of the expedition, however, overtook them and regained possession of the animals without loss of life. Later while Howard was freighting to Fort Logan his party of four men stood off one hundred hostile Indians all night. The Redskins were not aware that the party was so small and confined their attack to occasional long distance shots during the night. At daybreak a troop of cavalry came to the rescue of the little party.

A few years later Howard pushed still on west into Oregon and Washington where he conducted a mule pack train for nearly fifteen years. His trips here took him into British Columbia and involved, besides the hardships of travel overland through the wilderness, the necessity of guarding against the attack of robbers. Oftentimes the pack trains carried valuable loads including considerable gold. Howard was an expert shot and although he had some narrow escapes he never had to submit to a successful hold-up. After one of these northern trips Howard returned to the Butte country and being offered a handsome price for his mules he disposed of the bunch and decided to visit the old New Hampshire home. There were no steamers at the head of the Missouri and he with a few other men who were very anxious to get back east had to make the first five hundred miles in a row boat.

Returning from the east a few months later, Howard went into the ranching and horse trading operations which he followed in Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming until coming to Harding county. In November 1882 he was one of a party who came from Wyoming to Camp Crook to secure a supply of buffalo meat and here it was that he participated in the last big buffalo hunt. The party camped for the night and a severe blizzard set in. Next morning the river was covered with ice and the buffalo were crossing. Thousands

and thousands of the animals were crossing the ice to drift southward and the hunt was on . . . the last big hunt of buffalo. Buffalo hunting had been commercialized at this time and companies organized for the purpose sent their men out, one bunch to go ahead and do the killing with the big buffalo guns and another bunch with ox wagons to skin and gather the hides, the carcasses being left to rot on the prairie. When there were not enough ox teams to haul the hides they were stacked on the prairie until another ox train could be sent out. In the hunt at Camp Crook in which Howard participated one man, an employee of one of the hide companies, shot ninety buffaloes at one stand.

In 1896 Mr. Howard built his cabin on the Big Nasty where he is still living. (in 1911.) Little did he think at the time that a town would one day be located on his land and be given the name of Ralph, his own middle name. Really when we go back to 1896 and Howard's first cabin we find little reason why Howard or anyone else should ever think of such a thing as a town being built anywhere in such a lonely country. Howard's nearest neighbor was Fred Bond, a genial old Englishman, who lived about fifteen miles up the Big Nasty, and who, by the way, is still holding down his old ranch (in 1911). Down stream the nearest neighbor was Mrs. Dyer, a widow, who was thirty miles away. The nearest post office was Ludlow, about seventeen miles away. Ludlow was named after a trapper, Ed. Ludlow. The mail came from Belle Fourche those days and was delivered twice a week, weather permitting. The nearest railroad point was Dickinson, over a hundred miles away.

Previous to 1896 hunting and trapping had been good on the Big Nasty and many people made a business of the latter. There were plenty of white tailed deer, antelope, chickens and quite a number of buffalo. Wolves, coyotes, muskrats and beaver were also plentiful, a big beaver dam at one time being located just above the present site of Ralph. When Howard came in, however, the game and furbearing animals were becoming scarce.

When Howard first came to the Big Nasty small ranchmen were few and far between. The big outfits' herds grazed at will over the plains. One of the biggest outfits of this time was the Turkey Track.¹ It is estimated that at one time they had fifty thousand head of cattle grazing on the Dakota prairies. These outfits made big money but as the small ranchmen came in they were forced out. When the original Turkey Track owners made their last sale it aggregated six hundred twenty thousand dollars. This, it must be understood, was only their last bunch, thousands of dollars worth having been previously sold with a view of closing out.

Howard saw plenty of hardships during the first years but to him they seem small compared with those of the time he spent in the far west. Still even after locating on the Big Nasty there were many real hardships. The loneliness of the fifteen miles from the nearest neighbor would indeed be enough to discourage many of us. The inaccessibility of the place, lacking railway facilities, was the factor that the present day residents would not relish. Then again

there were the blizzards, loss of stock and various other discouraging conditions to be met. The fall that Howard located on the Big Nasty, and while he was yet illy prepared for inclement weather, one of the worst blizzards of the past two decades swept the country. It occurred on November 26, 1896 and yet is remembered by the few ranchers who then were located in the territory as the "Thanksgiving Blizzard." Thousands and thousands of cattle perished in that storm, their frozen carcasses strewn over the snow covered planes testifying as to its severity. Howard had brought in one hundred thirty-eight head of cattle and in the storm lost practically one half of them.

However there were compensating features. It was only occasionally that such a storm came, the winters usually being mild and the ranchman who was content to run a small herd could easily put up feed enough and provide shelter enough to prevent loss of stock when the occasional storms did come. Another compensating feature was that the grazing was excellent. The quality of the grass was such that the cattle when they left the ranch were ready for beef without further beef-making food-stuffs, thus the top market was assured without expensive finishing. The small ranchmen made good money and most of them became comfortably situated before the rush of homesteaders caused their grazing area to shrink.

Mr. Howard is among the number who have done well, by tending to business. He is comfortably situated, has a competence for his declining days, has been back to the old home several times and expects to make another trip soon. He has been through many experiences, has conquered numerous difficulties and in reality an old man in years; yet he is still young in thought and action. He still occupies his saddle during the greater part of each day and is as interested in his work as he was during the days when the wolves, coyotes and such were the only living things to bother his cattle by day or his slumber by night.

A genial, interesting, hospitable gentleman and a typical representative of the real pioneers is Jas. R. Howard.

Jas. R. Howard was the father of Fred R. Howard, who was one of the first county commissioners of Harding county. Another son George also lived at Ralph. R. W. Parks now lives on the Fred Howard ranch and Art Reitz is on George's place.

A few other interesting items from the early Ralph newspaper serve to give the reader an insight into early day life in northeastern Harding county:

* * *

A wrestling match which took place in Haley between Andrew Wagner of Ralph and Ed Hanson of Haley was a very evenly matched affair although Hanson got two out of the three falls. The first fall was won by Hanson with a crotch and deadlock in 19 minutes. The second fall was won by Wagner with a body hold in 4 minutes. The third fall was won by Hanson by a toe and deadlock in 34 minutes. The match was refereed by W. R. Gardner.

* * *

D. J. Maloney is back on his old job again, driving the stage.

* * *

Paul Ames and Ivan Bell autoed to the Black Hills this week.

The Ralph Republican started its column "News of the Week at Ralph," each week with the notation, "There is room for you at Ralph." The Republican was a newsy little pioneer newspaper, and its items showed an ability and desire to "boost" for Ralph and Harding county.

* * *

John Horvey, who lives about a mile north of town, paid a visit at the newspaper office Tuesday morning. Mr. Horvey is a first class carpenter and has built most of the buildings in this country. He reported that his corn was six feet high and that other garden stuff was in good condition owing to the good rains lately. (Mr. Horvey was the father of Mrs. Art Erdman.)

* * *

The postoffice at Dorfman, S. Dak., closed Tuesday, Aug. 15. 1911. Lack of patronage was given as the reason.

* * *

Mr. W. H. Bell of the Bell Ranch west of town has just invested in a fine Velie 40 horsepower, five passenger touring car.

* * *

Thornton Ames who lives about five miles northwest of town is building on a handsome new residence.

* * *

Lee H. Johnson, a Ralph merchant, has made arrangements with Fred Howard for a lot on the crossroads where he will put up a first class store building and will have a stock that will make his store one of the best in the country. (This is the present Ralph Store now on the lot he bought from Howard).

* * *

Charles Knutson, former manager of the Big Nasty ball team, will shake the Big Nasty Dust from his feet and hit the trail for Knox, N. Dak., where he will look for work.

* * *

On Jan. 12, 1912, Editor DeVany comments: "Since 1912 is leap year here's hoping that our shy but deserving young bachelors who hold down claims and fry their own flapjacks may before 1913 be holding down two claims and sharing the flapjacks with a better half."

* * *

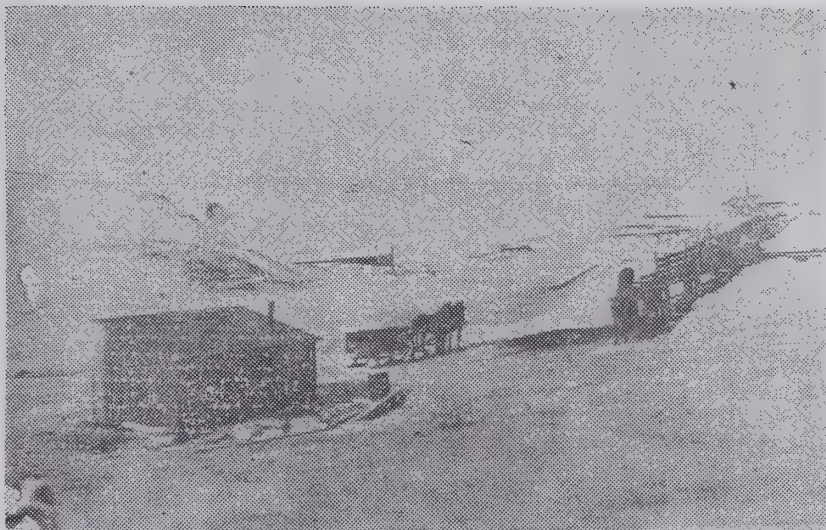
In the same issue Ben Bell is quoted as saying, "I've found a new way to avoid automobile trouble. Just leave the thing in the shed."

* * *

Fred Howard said "Feing a county commissioner isn't half the snap that some people think it is but then if you are a commissioner it helps some to be in a really good county."

* * *

Speaking of leap year, Dan Prendiville said, "Leap year doesn't mean a thing to me." Anson Juelfs agreed "Nor to me either."



The above picture of the Thornton G. Ames coal mine was taken in 1914. In Harding county's early homestead days, coal mines were operated in most communities where lignite occurred, and many homesteaders mined their own coal from community mines. Some mines produced a high grade of lignite coal, while others produced a grade which could barely be called coal.

It has often been said that a man who burned Harding county lignite was warmed three times . . . once when he mined it or busted it up, once when he burned it, and once when he hauled out the ashes . . . and often the first and last warmings were the most efficient.



The picture above, taken about 1916 on the Papka farm in the Ralph neighborhood, shows several well known present residents of Harding county. In front are Mrs. Harold Hanson, Reva (Opal Papka), Vern Papka, Buffalo, and Marion Papka, formerly of Buffalo. In back are John Papka, now deceased, and Claude Olson, rancher in the area southwest of Ralph.



A honyocker's work team in the early days of the Karinen community, a two horse, two ox outfit broken to work together.



Karinen watermelon party in early days. A group of Karinen area residents eating watermelon at the W. G. Huck place. Left to right above are Wm. G. Huck, Mrs. Huck, Clara McTigue, Wilma Karinen, Ida Njos, Matilda McTigue, Oscar Njos, Alma Karinen and Grant Njos. Neighborhood get-togethers like this were a high spot in the life of the homesteaders in Harding county.

MEMORIES OF THE KARINEN COMMUNITY

The following account of homestead days in the Karinen community has been written for this booklet by Wm. G. Huck, who homesteaded in that community in 1910 and made his home there for 36 years, during which time he was active in community affairs and held many public offices, including the office of first township clerk, when Table Mountain Township was organized. He was also the first clerk of Table Mt. School District and was clerk and secretary of several other associations in the area. Mr. Huck writes as follows:

I left Roscoe, S. Dak. in company with Carl Brandenburg, in an emigrant car headed for Rhame, N. Dak. as our shipping station, on October 10, 1910. We had each been to Harding county previously and filed on homesteads. Two of my sisters had already homesteaded, Mrs. Roy Ellis, whose homestead was in North Dakota on Lone Tree Creek, and Frances Huck whose homestead joined the state line just west of the hame road, both now in Ed Arithson's spread. Miss Grace Kearns also had a homestead further east along the state line, now owned by Glen Buckley. On November 26, 1913, Miss Kearns became Mrs. Huck at Marion, Iowa. My sister Frances Huck was married to Peter Lundeen on Sept. 27, 1911 in her claim shack, probably the first wedding in this community after the advent of the homesteaders. We moved her claim shack to my homestead, combined them and one more and made what was considered a nice three room cottage. I had been fortunate in getting a good supply of excellent water, erected a windmill and tank and allowed any and all freighters to water there. By that time I had a nice grove of trees, and from Bowman to Gallup my place was known as the place with the windmill and trees, where you could water, and believe me they did. Our place was quite a gathering place for the young people of the community. Among those often there were the Karinen girls, the Njos young people, the McTygues, Corrine Stich, Walter Johnson, Ted Anderson and others.

My eldest daughter was born Dec. 23, 1914. It was a very cold night. Walter Johnson went to Rhame via horseback, in the night, got lost, tired out his horse, pulled the saddle and bridle, turned it loose, and took off on foot. He got to the Armstrong ranch and sent Bud Armstrong on for the doctor, who got there next day in the p. m. Mrs. F. B. Lee, who was a nurse and usually on hand at such times, had one a very good job and there was not much for the doctor to do when he got there. Mrs. Huck's mother had come out from Iowa. We had been up all night and when it was light enough to see we saw some one had camped across the road and was sleeping under the wagon. While we were wondering who could be sleeping out at 20 below, he came out from under his tarp and lit running for the house and wanted breakfast, to which I consented, as there wasn't much else to do, but Mrs. Huck's mother, not being used to our western ways, thought it was the height of something or other to take a strange man in to feed under those circumstances. That was my introduction to Alex Facey.

One event that is outstanding in my recollection was when our daughter Geneva was born. As I said before we usually depended on Mrs. Lee at these times. So one evening just after supper Mrs. Huck told me it was time to get Mrs. Lee. I went out and was just cranking the car (a Model T) when Helen Churchward, who

was working for us came running out and said "Your wife wants you quick," and "quick" was the right word as the baby was born right now, after which I went to get Mrs. Lee. There was a dance at Karinen that night, and I had just gotten to the corner gate where my place joins the Stearns place and I met the Stearns car with the whole Stearns family in going to the dance, so I told Elvis, who was driving, to go for Mrs. Lee right fast as the baby was born, and I went back home. We waited and waited for them to come but they didn't, and finally a car drove into the yard. Supposing it was them coming I went out to meet them. It was a car driven by Minor Davis. They were short on girls at the dance, and Young Churchward, who had ridden on horseback, said if some one would furnish a car he would go up to Hucks' and get his sister, so Minor said he would go. Well, I told them they couldn't get one here tonight, despite the fact we had just gotten another, but I told Minor to go find out what had happened to the Stearns car and Mrs. Lee. There was a pond of water in the road right in front of Frank Powers' place. Going over Elvis had gone around it all right, but coming back, being urged on by Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Lee, he forgot about it and drove into it full speed, made about half way through it, and there they were, stuck in the mud all dressed for a dance. The boys took off their shoes and socks, and went to Powers' for help. As luck would have it he had in a team of horses, but he didn't have a log chain, so they got wire off the fence, which kept breaking, and they were messing around in the mud and water when Davis drove up. One of the boys picked Mrs. Lee up and carried her to Davis' car and they brought her on down. They didn't get the Stearns car out until midnight. That was one dance that didn't go off too well.

Through the years in Harding county, some years were good and some not so good. One of the driest was 1911, but there wasn't much stock in the country and many were not as yet depending on the country, and many went out for temporary work, so those who tried to stick didn't do so bad, but it was one of the years which sorted the boys from the men, and many left. 1919 was another dry year, and short of feed, but to make it worse winter came in October and stayed until May. Many bought feed and went broke. The thirties were bad years, most dry, especially 1936 when there was no rain at all and lots of grasshoppers. Most of the stock was either sold for little or nothing or shipped out to where there was feed. This was the time of government buying, which helped a lot and saved many from complete disaster. The work on WPA and other government projects did much to help many tide over until better times, who would otherwise have gone under. Those who could and did stay came out mostly not too badly.

One of the first community enterprises in Karinen community was the Table Mountain Hall Assn., which built the hall at Karinen. This was in the fall of 1911. Mr. Ahern was one of the prime movers in this. However, the association as well as the building was not very well put together and soon fell apart, and the building almost did. It was reorganized on a more substantial basis, with Fred Stearns as Pres., Wm. G. Huck, Clerk, and Earl Hansen, Treas. These officers, with few changes, served for many years. The hall was remodeled and better braced, a foundation put under it, and many, many very enjoyable community gatherings were held there.

Probably one of the most outstanding was the reception held for the boys when they came home from World War I. Among those present were: Pvt. James A. Nelson, Inf. Fr. Reks. Troops, Pvt. S. F. Barret, Air Service, Unassigned, Pvt. D. G. Hofoboan, S.A.T.C., Unassigned, Pvt. Gordon Jorgensen, Supply Co., 88 Div., Pvt. Clair, Trooper, "D" 1st Cav., 15 Div., Pvt. John Hoyman, Co. K. 69th Inf. 10 Div., Pvt. Arthur R. Kearns, Co. B 340 M. G. Bn., 89 Div., Cpl. Earl Abbott, Co. B 340 M. G. Bn. 89 Div., Pvt. Glen Buckley, Co. B 340 M. G. Bn., 89 Div., Cpl. Fred Grant, U. S. Marine Corps, 15 Reg., Sgt. Web. Cooper, Batt. B, 49th Arty., CAC, Pvt. Eddie H. Peterson, "Natt" 151 F. A. 42 Div., Pvt. Wm. C. Sttch, Co C 313 Tr. 88 Div., Pvt. Oscar Hansen, Co. F 69 Inf., 10 Div., Cpl. Elvis P. Stearns, Bat. E 150 F. A. 42 Div., Pvt. John Harold Lewis, Bat. B 15 F. A. 2nd Div., Pvt. Bert C. Lee, Depot Service Co. 53, Pvt. Glen B. Stearns, 347 F.A. M.D., Pvt. George Susse, 42 Div., Pvt. Hugh Kent, Ore. Div., Pvt. Geoffrey Sinclair, Air Service, Cpl. O. E. York, 23rd M. G. Bn. Thomas T. Hines, Div. Director Y.M.C.A. 77 Div., was the man who gave the oration of the day.

This list of names, rank, division, etc. were written by each one at this reception and I still have that list. Oscar St. Clair also went from this community but was not on this list, and there probably were others. It might be mentioned that Elvis Stearns and Harold Lewis were the first to go into the army at this time. They were volunteers.

Tony Colvell was the only one who paid the supreme sacrifice and did not come back.

This hall was built primarily for a dance hall but was used for many other community gatherings. A little higher standard was maintained here than at some, as no drinking or smoking was allowed in the hall, at least for a long while at first, and signs were posted all around the hall saying, "Gentlemen will not, and others must not, smoke in this hall" and when they said "others" they were not referring to the women. Come a long ways since that, haven't we?

This was the community center for many miles around, and many good community gatherings, dances, and Thanksgiving dinners were served there. We ate all afternoon and danced all night.

The first Postmaster at Karinen was Mrs. John Karinen. The exact date when it was established I don't know, but when I came in 1911 Mr. Ahern was postmaster. Ahern and Anderson were at that time running the Pioneer Store at Karinen. The business was sold to Lewis and Hansen and Earl Hansen was postmaster. This was in 1911 or 1912. This partnership was soon dissolved and O. E. Lewis took over the business and was postmaster until the time of his death in December of 1914. Then J. R. Derkin was appointed and conducted the business for his sister, Mrs. Lewis, and operated it until the business was sold to Julius Olson and he was appointed postmaster. He also operated a blacksmith shop until his death in 1933 when J. F. Thor took over the business and was postmaster until 1948 when he retired and sold out to Wesley Meigs, who was postmaster until the postoffice was discontinued. He still is running the store business.

The postoffice at Cammack was established in 1911, with R. T. Cammack as postmaster. J. F. Thor carried the mail from



Hotel Karinen, operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Karinen, was a popular gathering place on "stage nights" at Karinen in early days.



THE TABLE MOUNTAIN BEACON

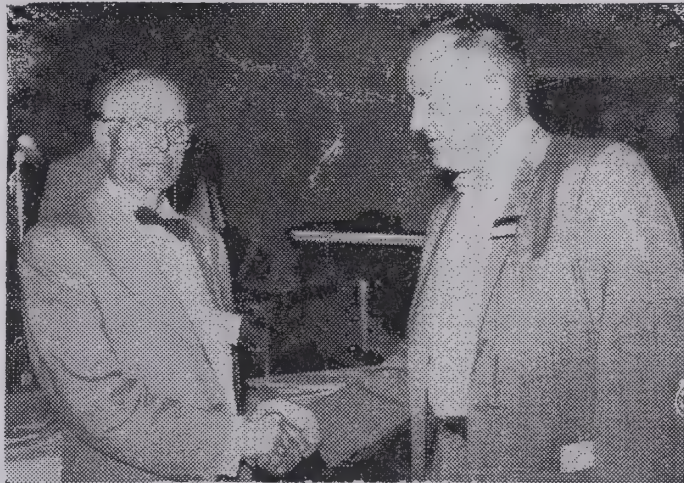
The Table Mountain Beacon was established by A. L. Lowden of Bowman in the summer of 1911. Mr. Lowden was then publisher of the Bowman Pioneer, and would come out from Bowman by stage each week and "get out the paper." In the fall of 1911 Wm. G. Huck became editor and manager, while the paper was still owned by Mr. Lowden.

About the first of 1911 he sold the paper to G. G. Glendinning, who was then publisher of the Ludlow Herald, also U. S. Commissioner at Ludlow. Mr. Huck continued to manage the paper until the fall of 1913 when Walter Johnson was in charge for a while. Harold Roba was in charge for a short time, and Mr. Huck was again in charge until it was consolidated with the Buffalo Times in about 1918.

Karinen to Cammack from 1912 to 1915, after which Carl Engstrand carried it until the office was discontinued in 1916 or 1917.

In the early days the mail was brought to Karinen from Bowman by horse drawn stage, making the trip three times a week. "Shorty" Quinlan had the mail contract from Bowman to Camp Crook. The stages would leave those places each Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the morning, arriving in Karinen that evening, stay overnight there and make the return trip the next day. These stages carried passengers and freight as well as mail, and there were many times enough people to heavily tax the capacity of the Karinen Hotel and bunkhouse and all, which was operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Karinen, and as these people came from widely separated places and from most all walks of life, many enjoyable and interesting times were had on "stage nights."

There were many "honyocks" in the country at this time with not much of anything to do but "hold down" their claims, ride the grub line and come to town on stage nights for the mail, and as the stages seldom got in until well after dark, especially in the winter, the town (the store) was usually packed. But when the mail was distributed, they, like the Arabs, silently faded away into the dark, and back to "the Little Old Sod Shanty on the Claim."



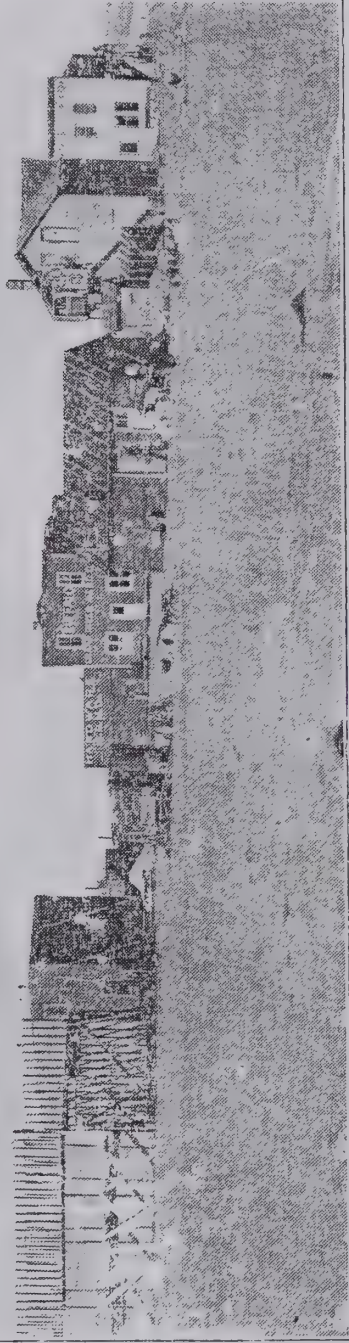
Few men have the opportunity to serve their community for a period of fifty years, but this has been the experience of W. M. Bennett, pioneer Harding county attorney, who last February 5th, observed the fiftieth anniversary of his qualification as Harding county's first State's Attorney, the office which he assumed on his 25th birthday, February 5, 1909.

He is shown above accepting the congratulations of his son Donn Bennett, Buffalo attorney, as he received special recognition as a 50-year member of the South Dakota Bar in August, 1958.

Mrs. W. M. Bennett is the former Anne J. Sparks, Harding county's first County Superintendent of Schools, and the couple have made their home in Buffalo constantly since 1909.

BUFFALO, S DAK

MARCH 29 - 09.



F. M. GILBERT, ONE OF BUFFALO'S FOUNDERS



F. M. Gilbert, one of the founders of the town of Buffalo who served many years as county commissioner, is shown as he worked to establish a stand of trees on the ranch southwest of Buffalo. At Buffalo's 50th Anniversary celebration, trophies will be given to the oldest man and woman who have lived in Harding county fifty years or more, in memory of Mr. Gilbert by his son Lloyd.

F. M. Gilbert, along with his brother, O. R. Gilbert, brother-in-law William Fried, organized the Grand River Mercantile Co. in the fall of 1908, and along with Frank Van Horn, organized the new town in the winter of 1908-09. He made his home in Harding county from 1883 when the family settled at Nashville, until his passing on October 16, 1953.

On the facing page is a view of the new town of Buffalo as it appeared on March 29, 1909, showing the progress made in the new town since earlier pictures showing its appearance in January of the same year.

FURTHER MATERIAL WILL BE PRESENTED IN NEXT BOOK

Since all things must come to a conclusion, this little booklet on the growth and development of Harding county will draw to a close on this page. A second booklet, containing community history of the remaining communities of Harding county, plus several entertaining and informative stories of earlier days in Harding county, will be produced as rapidly as collection of material and setting of type can be completed.

No line of importance has been drawn in selecting material for these stories. Work has been done as rapidly as possible after research and checking of material could be done. The story of several communities and special features is virtually complete, while in other areas, very little information has been returned to be compiled into presentable form. A wealth of pictures and biographical material is on hand in the publishers' files for the next booklet of the series, and in some instances material that is presently unavailable will be developed. It is regrettable that all material in our hands cannot be "first", but a deadline was set for completion of the first booklet, which was scheduled to stop at about 85 pages, in order to be out before the anniversary celebration. Many hundreds of hours of work and many hundreds of dollars in materials have gone into this first booklet, and the small force at the Times-Herald office has "burned the midnight oil" as well as the pre-dawn oil for months in order to bring it out at this time. We wish to thank all those who have helped us by recalling to mind their early day experiences in Harding county, as well as allowing us the use of prized old time photos.

The next booklet will include stories on the Cave Hills area, more complete stories on early Buffalo, Slim Buttes, southeast and south central Harding county, plus features on Tipperary, Three Toes, some good stories by Matt Karinen and many other features.

We hope you have enjoyed this booklet and will look forward to the next in the series.

—The Publishers.

A fitting close for our booklet is Tex Fletcher's song "My Harding County Home", dedicated to the people of Harding county by a young man who adopted Harding county as his home and has based his career as a western entertainer on experiences here:

MY HARDING COUNTY HOME

Not so many years ago, I left old Buffalo,
The place that I have always loved the best;
Where antelope they play, I'm yearning today
For MY HARDING COUNTY HOME out in the west.

Chorus:

I can see a mustang band grazing by the River Grand,
I see the range where white-faced cattle roam,
And the lights in Buffalo will guide me back, I know,
Guide my back to my Harding County Home.

As I wander down Broadway, my memory does stray
To the buttes that reach like mountains to the sky;
I can hear a coyote wail as he roams along the trail;
"Come back to your prairie home" is his cry.

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